WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

volume 10

STAGE.81 Checking Out Hiba Junior High

WHISTLE!™

Vol. 10
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I'M OFF!
WATCH OUT FOR CARS.
THUMP
THUMP
I GOTTA GET UP!
OH, UM, HOW 'BOUT SOME BREAK-FAST?
IT'S OKAY. I'M GONNA HIT THE SACK.
SORRY.
TAP TAP
TUP
!
TUP
'MORNING, TATSUYA.
HOW'S THE STUDYING GOING? GETTING ANY-WHERE?
'MORNING, SHŌ.
YAWN
JUST GOT HOME.
HMM... 5 A.M.?
SLAM
BEEP
MATH II
...
FLIP
MATH II
A JUNIOR HIGH TEXTBOOK. BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...
AHA! I BET IT'S EXAM TIME.
HE HASN'T OPENED A TEXTBOOK SINCE HE MOVED IN WITH ME.
A LITTLE PAST 5.
WHAT?!
WHAT TIME IS IT?
MORNING!
AH, YOU'RE HOME.
HM.
I FORGOT ALL THIS STUFF...

YOU SHOULD STAY FOCUSED ON THE EXAMS. THEY START TOMORROW.

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET THE SCOOP ON THEM.

UGH.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXAM?

COUNT ME IN ...

THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO CHECK THEM OUT. SO WE CAN RE-WORK OUR STRATEGY.

RYOICHI LOST...

YUP.

HONK

SAKURA JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH

COACH GAVE ME A CALL LAST NIGHT.

TUP

AFTER SCHOOL, COACH, YUKI AND I ARE GONNA CHECK OUT OUR OPPONENT IN THE FINAL GAME.

TUP

NO, I WAS GLAD... I MEAN, I ENJOYED IT.

BET YOU COULDN'T STUDY MUCH WITH ALL THAT RACKET.

SORRY ABOUT BRINGING THE CROWD YESTERDAY.

GUESS SO.

...

ISN'T THE NEXT OPPONENT KOKUBU SECOND JUNIOR HIGH?

HIBA JUNIOR HIGH DEFEATED THEM.

KOKUBU SECOND LOST.

WHAT ?!

READ THIS WAY

SHŌ ...

I'LL STUDY WHEN I GET BACK. I'LL GET AN AVERAGE SCORE...NO PROBLEM.

SO PLEASE TAKE ME ALONG.

I WANT TO SEE THE GUYS WHO DEFEATED RYOICHI.

THE WAY IT IS, I CAN'T FOCUS ON STUDYING, ANYWAY!

GEEZ, YOU CAN'T HELP IT, HUH?

COME ALONG THEN.

WE NEVER EXPECTED HIBA JUNIOR HIGH TO GET THIS FAR.

THEIR TEAM WAS ESTABLISHED ONLY LAST YEAR, AND ...

FLIP

...THE ENTRY IN HONMA'S NOTEBOOK SAYS THAT HE HARDLY HAD A CHANCE TO SEE THEM PRACTICE.

SKREE

丸山酒店

SORRY I'M LATE.

I HAD TO BORROW A CAR.

HOP IN.

COOL.

WAIT UP!

TUP TUP

I'M COMING, TOO.

PLEASE TAKE ME ALONG.

丸山酒店

...THEY'RE THE TYPE OF TEAM THAT FOCUSES ON DEFENSE. JUST LIKE IWA TECH, BUT...

...UNLIKE IWA TECH...

ACCORDING TO AMAMIYA ...I MEAN, ACCORDING TO KOKUBU SECOND'S COACH...

...THEIR DEFENSE IS WELL BEYOND JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL.

...THE INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS ARE ALL TALENTED, AND...

I'M AFRAID SO.

YOU MEAN, EVEN RYOICHI COULDN'T BREAK THROUGH HIBA'S DEFENSE?

RYOICHI WAS NOT IN HIS REGULAR CONDITION.

...THE DAY BEFORE THE GAME, SOMEONE CLOSE TO RYOICHI HAD PASSED AWAY.

I FOUND OUT ABOUT IT AFTER-WARDS ...

APPARENTLY, SHE WAS THE PERSON WHO RAISED HIM IN PLACE OF HIS MOTHER.

I MEAN, HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION WASN'T BAD AT ALL.

THE PROBLEM WAS HIS HEAD.

BURBLE BURBLE BURBLE BURBLE

...QUIT SOCCER.

...

RYOICHI MIGHT...

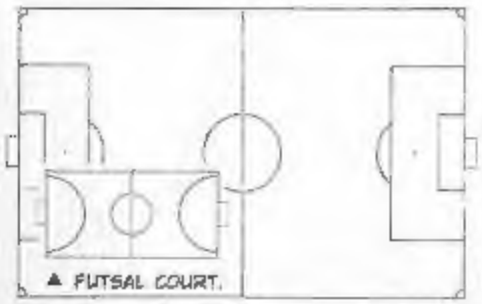
READ THIS WAY

I HARDLY EVER GET LOST...EVEN WHEN I VISIT A NEW PLACE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I SORT OF NATURALLY SEE THESE THINGS. GUESS I HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF DIRECTION.
GOOD EYE. I MEAN, HOW DID YOU KNOW?
A BORN STRIKER.

Tacchan's One Point Lesson

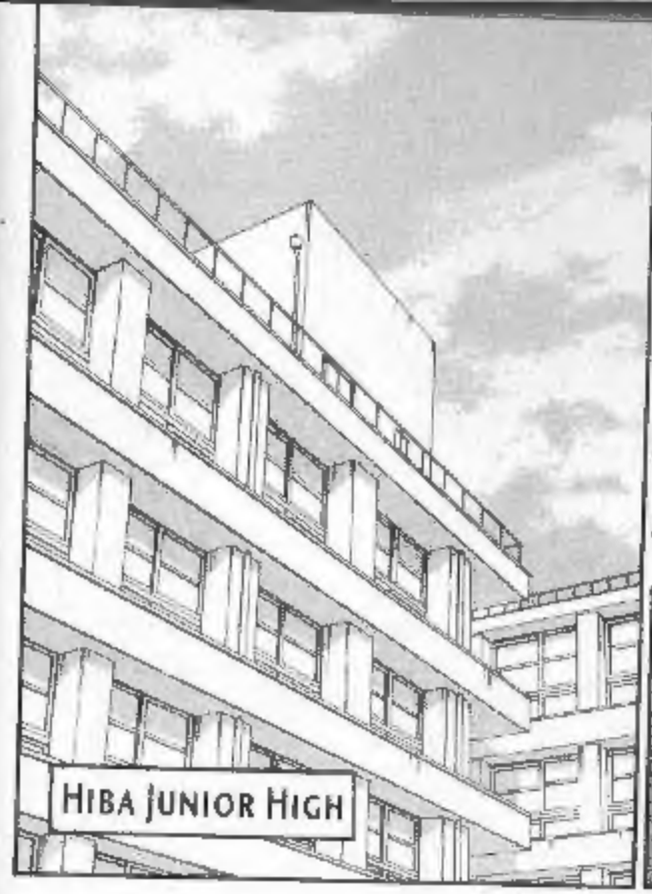
What is futsal?

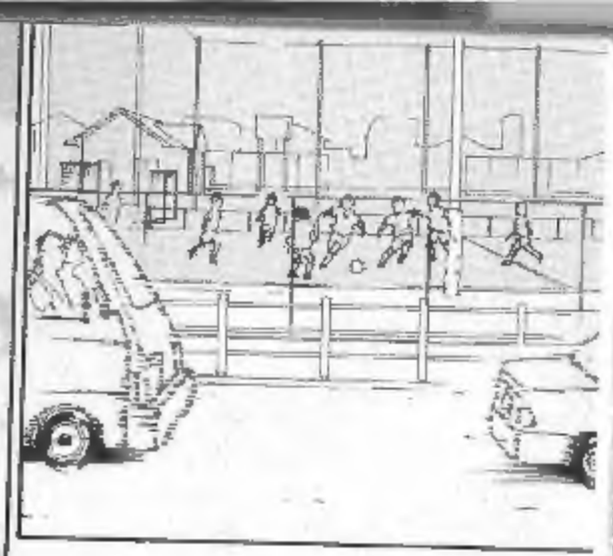
SIMPLY PUT, IT'S A MINI SOCCER GAME PLAYED BY TEAMS OF FIVE, INCLUDING THE KEEPER. THE J-LEAGUE IS MAKING A BIG EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE SPORT. FOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY, THE PITCH SIZE IS SET AT APPROXIMATELY 20 METERS BY 40 METERS. THE RULES ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM SOCCER: INSTEAD OF USING THROW-INS, FUTSAL USES KICK-INS, AND BOTH SLIDE TACKLING AND SHOULDER CHARGING ARE FORBIDDEN. THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE IS THAT THERE IS NO OFFSIDES RULE.

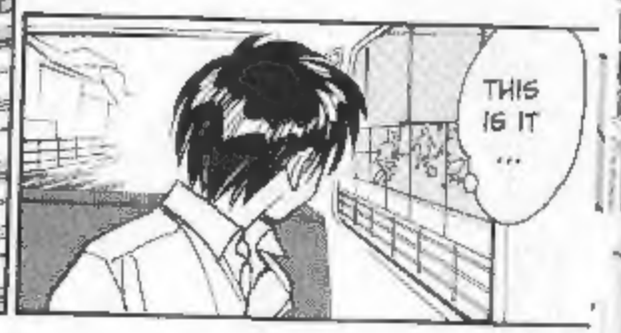


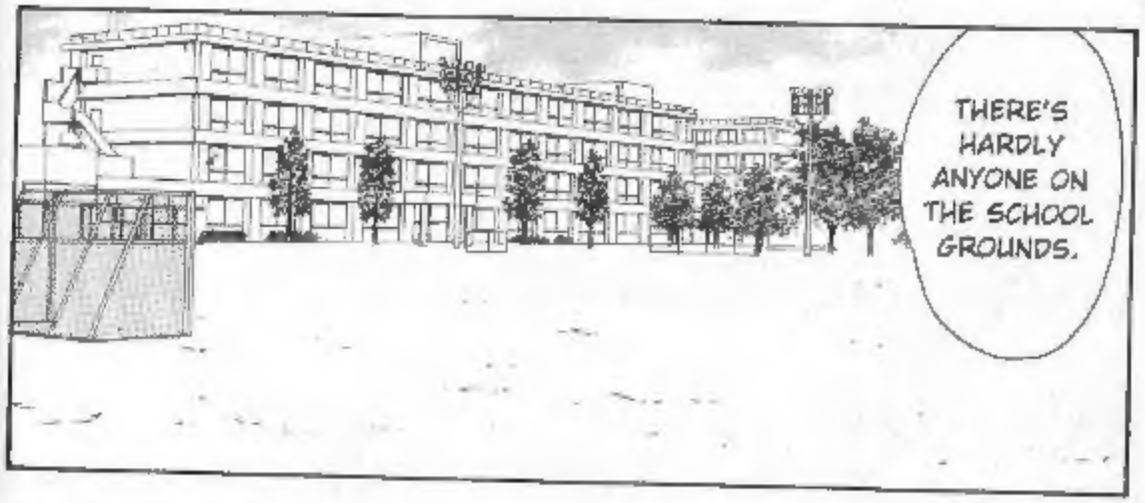
REGULAR SOCCER COURT.

▲ FUTSAL COURT.









I GUESS TEAM PRACTICE ISN'T PERMITTED DURING EXAMS.
WE DIDN'T THINK OF THIS. WE'RE HAVING EXAMS, AND SO IS HIBA.
GEEZ, NOT A GOOD PLAN.

!

IF THERE WERE MORE PLACES LIKE THIS ...

...LOTS MORE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO SOCCER.

SPIN

HEY, SHŌ!

RYOICHI!

RYOICHI!

TAP

SEE? I TOLD YOU.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT? WHERE?

THERE'S ALSO A GIRL PLAYING WITH THEM.

YOU'D BETTER BRING YOUR "A" GAME.

THEY'RE TOUGH, I TELL YOU.

OR MAYBE NOT. YOU MUST'VE COME TO CHECK OUT HIBA.

NO WAY. SHE WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO RYOICHI.

I WONDER HOW HE FELT WHEN HE TOOK THE FIELD AGAINST HIBA.

A SURPRISE ENCOUNTER.

ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT SOCCER?

JOLT

...BUT ...

... I DON'T WANT YOU TO QUIT.

I KNOW, BUT...

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

SHŌ...

SHE PASSED AWAY LAST WEEK... DUE TO AN ILLNESS.

WHAT?!

YOU MEAN KAZUE?

YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RYOICHI'S NANNY?

SHŌ.

YES?

HEY! COULD YOU TAKE YOUR FIGHT SOME-WHERE ELSE?

HOW DARE YOU!

SH

UP

SORRY

HUH?

THIS IS FUTSAL FIELD, NOT A BOXING RING!

THEY'RE FROM THE HIBA JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM

WHAT?

AND DID YOU COME TO GET YOUR BUTT KICKED. . *AGAIN?*

?

YOU'RE NO. 9 OF KOKUBU SECOND JUNIOR HIGH.

DON'T BRING UP KAZUE!

YOU'LL REGRET IT IF YOU QUIT KAZUE WOULD HAVE.

WHO CARES!

GRAB

AND NOW THAT KAZUE IS GONE

WHAT'S THE POINT OF PLAYING SOCCER?!

KAZUE IS GONE

WERE YOU PLAYING SOCCER *ONLY* FOR HER?

AND WHAT ABOUT *YOU?*

THIS IS HIBA?

YOU MEAN THAT'S A DUDE?

WE WERE BORED PLAYING AGAINST THESE LOSERS, ANYWAY

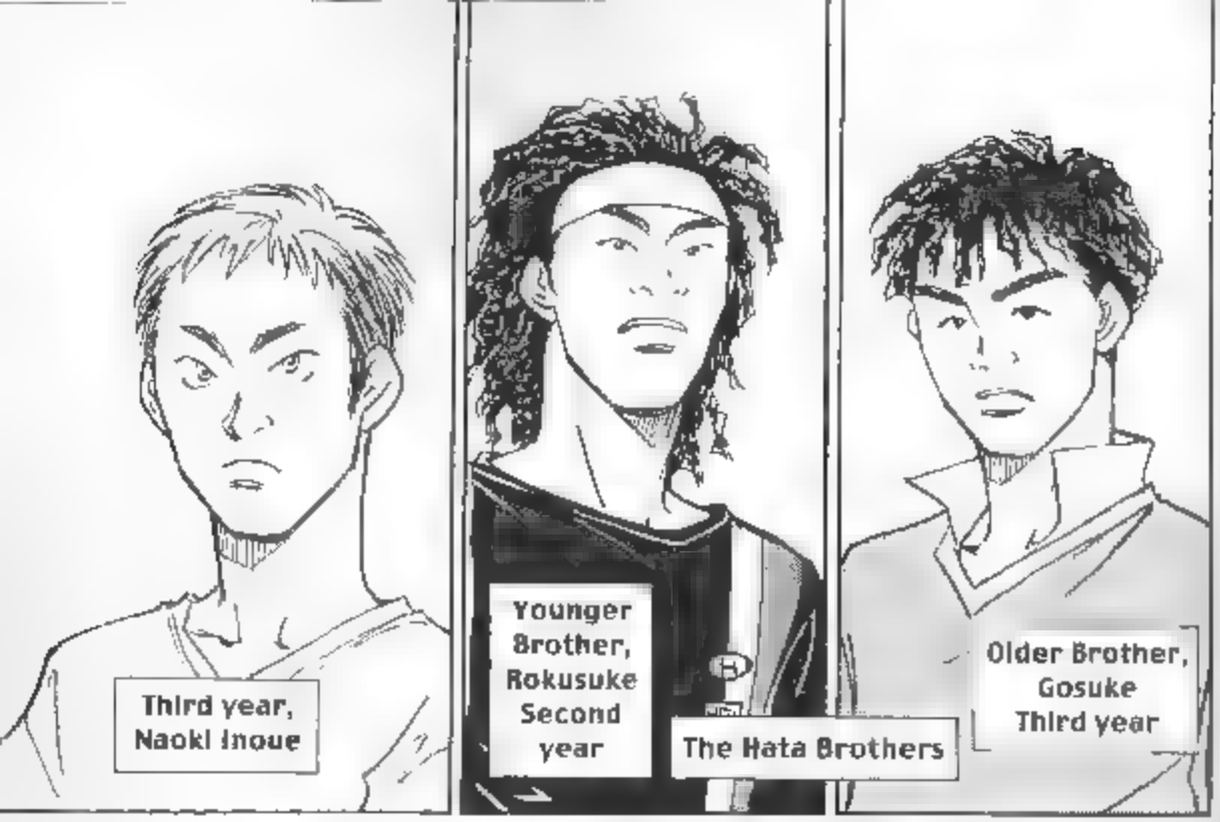
GOOD TIMING. LET'S PLAY A GAME

DID YOU COME TO CHECK US OUT?

I KNOW ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE WITH JOSUI AREN'T YOU?

OR, MAYBE YOU WANT TO RUN AWAY LIKE LITTLE CHICKENS?

DOOM



STAGE.82 What Should We Do? How Will It End?

Ryoichi Tenjo
Second year,
Kokubu Second
Junior High
IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU CAN GET THAT DONE FASTER BY PLAYING A GAME WITH US, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU CAME TO CHECK US OUT, RIGHT?
Second year,
Sho

...JUMP ON THE SOCCER BANDWAGON AND START PLAYING, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE MEDIOCRE.

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SOMEWHAT ATHLETIC, GUYS LIKE YOU GET ALL PUFFED UP AND..

YOU'RE A DIME A DOZEN.

...WHAT?!

WHA ...?

GO AHEAD AND QUIT. TO BE FRANK, YOU'RE A JOKE.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

IT'S LIKE GAWKING AT A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

HE'S CUTTING HIM TO PIECES.

HARSH.

HERE COMES TSUBASA'S TRASH TALKING

WHEN YOU LOSE, YOU BLAME IT ON THE OTHERS AND SAY "IT WASN'T MY FAULT," HUH? YUP, THE TRUTH HURTS.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY ACTUAL **SKILL**, BUT YOU THINK YOU'RE SOOO GOOD. I CAN'T STAND GUYS LIKE YOU. SORRY, THAT'S JUST HOW I FEEL.

HOW LAME IS THAT? YOU'VE BECOME THE BIG BAD BOSS OF YOUR LOUSY TEAM..AND YOU SHOULDN'T BE PLAYING AT ALL.

DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT!

!

SIZZLE

IT'S DISGUSTING. PEOPLE LIKE YOU MAKE ME WANT TO PUKE.

THAT KID HAS AN EVEN SHARPER TONGUE THAN MINE.

YOU CAN'T SWING A DEAD CAT WITHOUT HITTING SOMEONE WITH YOUR LEVEL OF TALENT EITHER YOU'RE TOO DUMB TO RECOGNIZE THAT FACT, OR YOU'RE DELUDING YOURSELF

. YOU WANTED TO QUIT SOCCER, DIDN'T YOU?

COME TO THINK OF IT

RUNNING AWAY?

I WANT NO PART OF IT

READ THIS WAY

OKAY ...

SPIN

...I DON'T MIND.

GRAB

BY THE WAY, HAVE ANY OF YOU ACTUALLY PLAYED FUTSAL BEFORE?

IS THE ENTRANCE OVER HERE?

LET'S DO THIS.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING? LET GO!

NOW THAT IT'S DECIDED ..

SLIDE

SLIDE

PFF HEH HEH

GO HOME. GIT. SCRAM.

MAY I SAY SOME-THING?

HEH HEH

SO WOULD YOU MIND HELPING US OUT?

BUT THERE ISN'T MUCH WE CAN DO ABOUT IT WHEN WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS

WE CAME HERE TO CHECK THEM OUT ...

AND TO BE ABLE TO TEST THEM ON THE FIELD IS SOMETHING WE COULDN'T HAVE EVEN WISHED FOR

YOU ATTACK FIRST.

HONOR SYSTEM ON PENALTIES, OKAY?

ZUP

NOT COOL, YUKI!

WHOA.

SORRY TO DIS-APPOINT YOU. ♡

I'LL PLAY KEEPER.

YEESH. SHOCKED ME

C'MON USE THE DRESSING ROOM!

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

HMMM THEN I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH EXPERIENCE

JUST A LITTLE

NOPE

I'VE SEEN IT IN MAGAZINES AND ON TV, I BUT, UH

WHAT?

ALREADY WEARING SHORTS

IDIOT.

AH.

I'LL SEND IT BACK FOR NOW

BACK PASS!

HONK

BIP

EASY WIN FOR US THEN.

WHAT? DON'T THEY KNOW THE RULES?

UNLIKE SOCCER, A BACKWARD PASS ISN'T PERMITTED IN FUTSAL.

WHAT?

BGM

GOOD!

BIP

SHŌ.

FOOMP

SHOOM

THEY'RE FAST!

SHOOM

DASH

AH.

STOP HIM ON THAT SIDE!

SHŌ.

WHAT?

BOMP

YUKI, BEHIND YOU!

I THINK CHARGING AND SLIDING AREN'T ALLOWED.

ZUUP

ZUUP

DASH

VU MP

SIZZLE
SIZZLE
DO IT AGAIN
YOU CAN ONLY KICK AFTER YOU STOP THE BALL OUTSIDE THE LINE PROPERLY.
WHAT?
SHOOM
ZUP
ZUP
BIP
BUP
FINISH
I SEE, THERE'S NO OFFSIDES.
I KNOW
YOU KICK IT IN.
SIDE-OUT.
OOPS
WAIT A SEC.
BOOM
BOMP

FROM THE LOOK OF THEIR BUILDS, IT'S A GOOD GUESS THAT THEY'RE THE DEFENDERS...EVEN THOUGH FUTSAL IS AN OFFENSIVE GAME

BESIDES, LIKE AMAMIYA SAID HIBA JUNIOR HIGH HAS AN INCREDIBLE DEFENSE. THE WAY THEY READ THE PASS IS WELL BEYOND JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL.

FUTSAL DEMANDS THAT YOUR ATTACKS BE...

SNAK

TUP

...SPEEDY AND NIMBLE.

FUTSAL

FLIP

TOO MP

TIME.

SLAP

FOOSH

ROKU!

FOO MP

SWAP

THEIR TEAM-WORK IS AWKWARD

EVERY ONE'S HESITANT BECAUSE IT'S A DIFFERENT STYLE OF SOCCER

Ah.

ZUP

WHAT'RE THEY YAKK'NG ABOUT?

WHISPER WHISPER

...

IT'S USELESS .EVEN F THEY FIGURE OUT THE RULES

...

UM...

GLESS I'M JUST AN DIOT

WE'RE LOSING, BUT YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELF.

...

PRETTY MUCH.

IT FEELS MORE LIKE THE LATIN STYLE OF PLAY

YOU'RE MORE A EUROPEAN STYLE PLAYER, AREN'T YOU?

FUTSAL REQUIRES SERIOUS SPEED IT'S DIFFERENT FROM PLAYING ON A REAL PITCH.

AH, I GOT IT!

SMAK

..

I MEAN

WHICH MEANS ...?

IT'S MORE LIKE BASKET-BALL, ISN'T IT?

IT'S LIKE PLAYING BASKET-BALL WITH YOUR FEET

WE'RE THINKING OF FUTSAL AS SOCCER, AND IT'S NOT WORKING.

THE GAME IS RE-STARTING!

STAGE.83

Smile (Brotherhood)

I DON'T EVEN...

...

LET'S START OUR COUNTER-ATTACK!

EVEN IF I SCORE

..EVEN IF I WIN A GAME

KAZUE IS NO LONGER AROUND.

TO SMILE

KAZUE WON'T BE THERE.

..WANT TO PLAY SOCCER, BUT

WHY...

WHY AM I RUNNING?

WHY AM I HERE?

IT'S MORE LIKE BASKETBALL, ISN'T IT?

WE'RE THINKING OF FUTSAL AS SOCCER, AND IT'S NOT WORKING.

WE NEED TO DO SOME ONE-TOUCH PASSES AND SPEED UP THE OFFENSE

BASKET-BALL MEANS NIMBLE OFFENSE AND PASSING

I MEAN .

WHICH MEANS ?

WE SHOULD ATTACK!!

IF THE OPPONENT LOSES THE BALL OR WE STEAL IT

DASH

...DO I CHASE DOWN THE BALL?

KNOWING THAT, WHY ...

ONLY THING THAT CATCHES MY ATTENTION IS THE POSITION CHANGES

I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT DO SOME-THING INTERESTING. MAYBE I OVER-ESTIMATED THEM

I THOUGHT THEY WERE COMING BACK WITH A NEW STRATEGY, BUT NOTHING CHANGED.

THE GUY FROM KOKUBU KEEPS TRYING TO PENETRATE WITHOUT PASSING. THAT'S NOT GONNA WORK.

ROKUSUKE!

SHOOM

BOOM

FUMP

SHŌ!

BOOM

YUKI!

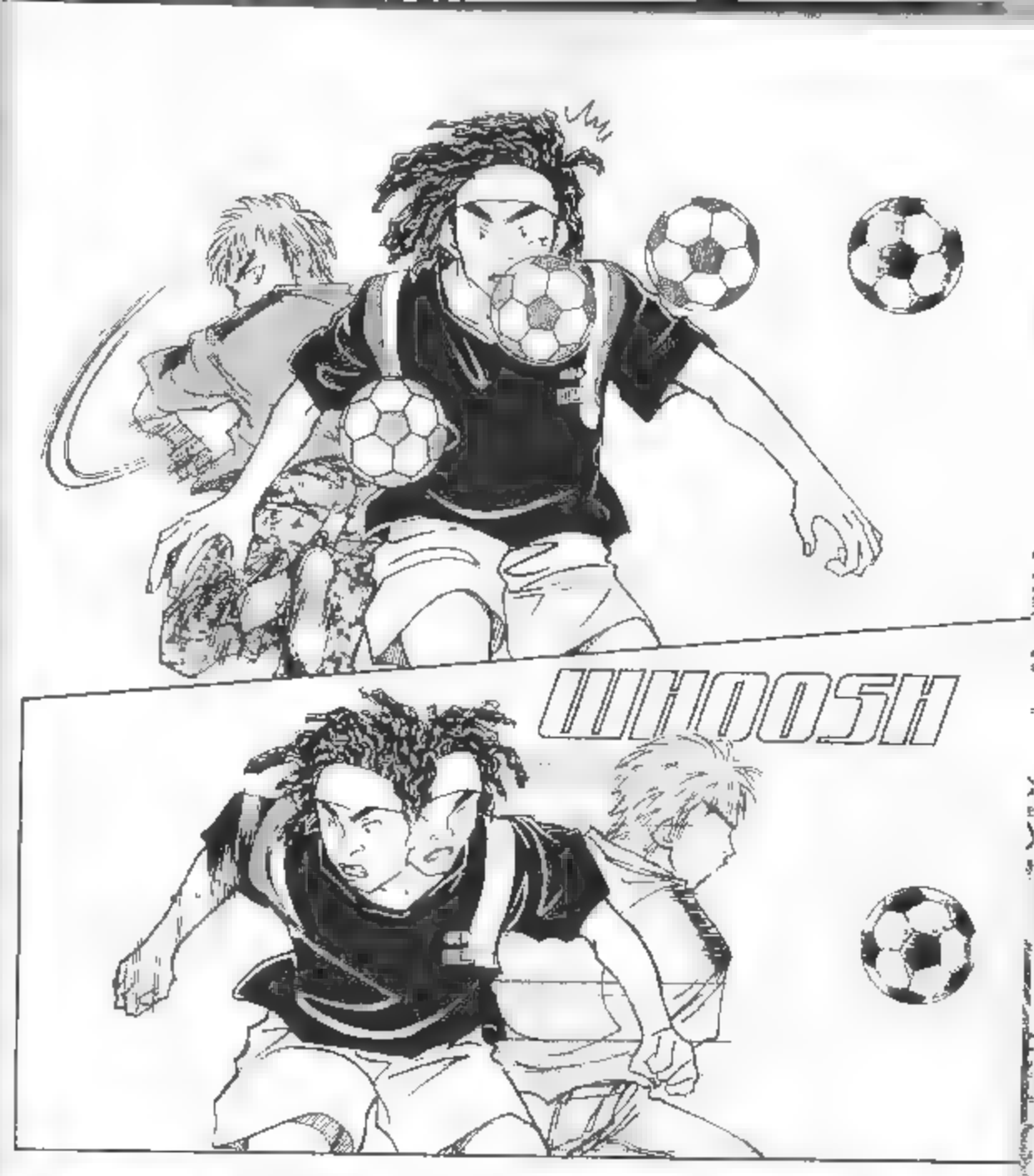
THAT'S FAST! TOUCH PASS?

GOSUKE, ON YOUR RIGHT!

RYOICHI!

JOLT

FOOSH


WHOOSH

THAT MADE ME HAPPY

BECAUSE YOU GOT MY PASS

YOU SEEM HAPPY.

...MAKES ME FEEL THE HAPPIEST.

WATCHING YOU SUCCEED AT THE THING YOU LOVE..

...MOVED ON ITS OWN.

MY BODY..

RYOICHI!

NICE VOLLEY!

AH...

SHWOM
SHWOM
DA SH

ARRG FAST LITTLE BUGGERS!
HMMM
HUFF HUFF
HUFF

YOU SHOULD GET EXCITED AFTER YOU BEAT US!
KEEP YER DISTANCE
WHY'RE YOU SO EXCITED OVER JUST ONE POINT?
THE REAL GAME HAS JUST BEGUN!
CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE FORBIDDEN DURING FINALS
YOU GUYS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
HEY!
LET'S BOLT!
OH NO, IT'S KEWPIE DOLL SHINOYAMA.

WAS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THOSE KIDS?

GLARE
YOU SHOULDN'T ANSWER HONESTLY.
PEST
PEST
WHY DO YOU THINK THEY RAN OFF?
SORRY

I'M SHIMOYAMA. I'M A GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AT HIBA JUNIOR HIGH UP THE ROAD THEY'RE OUR STUDENTS.
THAT'S RIGHT
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE WALKING BY. ARE YOU A TEACHER?
WHO ARE YOU?
GLARE
GLARE

HANGING OUT WITH THOSE LOSERS!
MY BIGGEST HEADACHE IS THAT SUCH A GOOD STUDENT, WITH GREAT POTENTIAL IS

THEY'RE SCUM. WHO DON'T RESPECT THEIR TEACHERS.
OH, YEAH THEY STEAL, THEY SKIP SCHOOL, AND THEY GET IN FIGHTS.
ARE THEY UM, SPECIAL-NEEDS KIDS?

WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH THOSE DELINQUENTS? HUH?
SO WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
WHAT WERE WE DOING? WE WERE JUST.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING? HOW SILLY
YOU OKAY?
OOPS
MPFH...

AH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT
THWACK
OW...

BRING YOUR BEST GAME THIS SUNDAY OKAY?

SEE YA, JOSUI.

BLAB BLAB BLAB

BUT HE ENDED UP STARTING A SOCCER TEAM. HE RECRUITED THOSE DELINQUENTS AND JUST PLAYS SOCCER ALL THE TIME.

HE'S INTELLIGENT AND AN EXCELLENT STUDENT. WE HAD HOPED THAT HE'D EVENTUALLY MAKE IT TO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

YES. HE TRANSFERRED HERE LAST YEAR.

YOU MEAN, THE SMALLEST ONE?

SHIN GK

THAT'S NOT . ANYWAY!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THOSE SCUM. WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS TSUBASA'S ..

BUT ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING? EVEN THE KIDS YOU CALL DELINQUENTS ARE APPLYING THEMSELVES.

COME TO THINK OF IT THE GUY WHO WAS PLAYING KEEPER DIDN'T END UP DOING ANYTHING

HE'S NOT A KEEPER.

WE MAY HAVE TROUBLE WITH THEM.

IT WAS GOOD THAT WE COULD AT LEAST PLAY AGAINST THEM A LITTLE

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, IDIOT!

HEH HEH

GEEZ. YOU WON'T STOP.

READ THIS WAY

THEY STOPPED RYOICH WHAT'RE OUR CHANCES GETTING THROUGH?

I PROBABLY CAN'T MAYBE SHIGEK. CAN?

SPEAKING OF SHIGEK.

I JUST REMEMBERED

IT'S NOT SO EASY TO BREAK THROUGH THEIR WALL.

TELL HIM THAT NAOKI INOUE SENDS HIS WARMEST REGARDS.

TELL HIM TO WEAR CLEAN UNDERWEAR... IN CASE HE GOES TO THE HOSPITAL.

YOU'VE GOT A GUY CALLED SHIGEKI SATŌ ON YOUR TEAM, RIGHT?

HMM, KANSAI DIALECT

WHAT?

HE'S A *CENTER BACK.*

THAT LITTLE ONE ISN'T A KEEPER.

THAT TINY ONE IS A DEFENDER?

NO WAY!

HE'S LIKE THE CONTROL TOWER FOR THE DEFENSE. THE GUY WITH THE DREADS IS THE STOPPER ON THE LEFT, AND THE OTHER ONE IS ON THE RIGHT. THE TAN ONE IS THE LEFT WINGBACK, AND THE BLOND ONE WITH THE KANSAI DIALECT IS THE RIGHT WINGBACK. HIBA JUNIOR HIGH HAS SERIOUS DEFENSIVE POWER.

CHOCOLATE CIGARETTE

NO SMOKING.

IT'S ALMOST SUMMER FOR US, BUT FOR YOU, IT'S ALMOST WINTER.

STAGE.84

The Dream Dreamt in Kansai Dialect Is...

Now You Know: All About Futsal

LET ME EXPLAIN A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT FUTSAL. THERE ARE ONLY FIVE PLAYERS -- AS OPPOSED TO 11 -- AND THE SIZE OF THE COURT S ABOUT A TH RD THE SIZE OF A SOCCER PITCH (WHICH MAKES IT ABOUT THE SAME S ZE AS A TENN S COURT). AS A RESULT, FUTSAL IS A MUCH MORE ACCESSIBLE SPORT. IF YOU'RE AT SCHOOL, IT'S PERFECT TO PLAY DUR NG A LUNCH BREAK. IF YOU HAVE A SERIOUS INTEREST IN THE SPORT, THERE ARE ALSO COURTS SPECIF CALLY BUILT FOR FUTSAL. YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY A FEE TO USE THEM, THOUGH. YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND ONE CLOSE BY. AND, IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY, TRY TO LOOK COOL. WEAR A UN FORM.

THE AWAY GAME UNIFORMS FROM 1988 ARE COOL.

I LIKE THE ENGLISH SIDE

LIKE SHO'S FAVORITE BRAZILIAN PLAYERS

NO. 8 WAS WORN BY BAZZA.

BY THE WAY I LIKE RAVERN MUCH, WHERE BATTALOS PLAYS.

ALL THAT MATTERS IS TO HAVE FUN.

IF YOU FEEL LIKE TRYING IT OUT, DO IT RIGHT AWAY. IT DOESN'T MATTER EVEN IF YOU'RE NEXPER ENCED OR A G RL. IN REALITY, MOST FUTSAL TEAMS HAVE BOTH INEXPER ENCED AND EXPERIENCED PLAYERS. IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR A TEAM TO HAVE FEMALE PLAYERS, EITHER. BASICALLY, WHAT'S MPORTANT IS YOUR DRIVE TO PLAY THE GAME. OF COURSE, IF YOU RUN A LOT, IT'LL EXHAUST YOU, AND YOU MIGHT MAKE MISTAKES AND BECOME A BURDEN TO YOUR TEAMMATES. WHEN YOU GET TIRED, YOU CAN ALWAYS HAVE SOMEONE ELSE TAKE YOUR SPOT. IT'S NATURAL FOR AN INEXPER ENCED PLAYER TO BE LOUSY AT HANDL NG THE BALL, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. THE EMBARRASSMENT IS NOTHING COMPARED WITH THE JOY YOU GET FROM TAK NG A SHOT ON GOAL. SCORING FEELS GREAT!

I LEARNED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT FUTSAL THIS TIME. A WHILE BACK, I HEARD THAT A NUMBER OF BRAZ LIAN PLAYERS, LIKE RONALDO AND EDMUNDO, STARTED WITH FUTSAL AND I TOTALLY BELIEVE IT. BRAZIL AN PLAYERS OFTEN USE FLASHY EVASION TECHNIQUES WHEN THEY'RE FACED WITH A NUMERICAL MISMATCH (TWO VS. ONE OR THREE VS. ONE), LIKE DRIBBL NG THROUGH A TIGHT SPOT OR US NG INTERESTING FEINTS. I MEAN, THOSE TYPES OF TECHNIQUES MIGHT BE SOMETHING THEY LEARNED PLAYING FUTSAL. THAT MAKES ME WANT TO PLAY FUTSAL MORE OFTEN. AND, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I REGRET LOSING AGAINST THE GUYS FROM HIBA THE OTHER DAY. I'M COMPELLED TO PRACTICE SO THAT I CAN TAKE MY REVENGE.

FUTSAL IS A DIFFERENT ANIMAL FROM SOCCER.

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE A RUI COSTA-STYLE THROUGH PASS.

TOYOTA

WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK ME TO COME ALONG?

BECAUSE, HIGEKI, YOU [illegible]

WRITTEN by ASSISTANT N (SOCCER MANIAC)

WRITING • ILLUSTRATION / ASSISTANT N

THANKS ♡

SAME TIME TOMORROW, OKAY?!

NEXT TIME! I WON'T LOSE NEXT TIME!

C'MON!

I'M GONNA SETTLE THIS TODAY!

IF I REMEMBER

SHI

SHI-GEK

SETTLE IT? I'VE BEATEN YOU A HUNDRED TIMES.

SHUT UP!

GOT THAT SHIGEKI?!

JUMP

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR, MONKEY BOY!

IT'S TIME FOR MORNING CHORES.

FUMP

GET UP! LITTLE PUNK!!

UGH.

BLAH

OH, IT WAS JUST A DREAM.

YOU.. POOP!

HEH HEH HEH

I WON AGAIN, MONKEY BOY

THUP

BAM BAM BAM BAM

WHAT DID'YA SAY?!

WE'RE GONNA KEEP GOING UNTIL I WIN!

URGH YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE BUTT

OH, FORGET IT! LET'S DO IT!

WHAT THE HECK?

!

FREEZE

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

Y... YOH.

SH. SHIGEK!

THUMPA THUMPA THUMPA

SLAP

WHAT'RE YOU *SENILE* OR SOMETHING?!

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT *ABOUT* ME?!

SLAP

AH.

WRI NG

FREE-LOADERS LIKE US GOTTA PAY OUR DUES

SOMEONE'S PEEKING AT US FROM THE GATE

WHAT IS IT?

THAT'S SOMETHING THAT A PERSON WHO ACTUALLY STUDIES WOULD SAY

MUTTER MUTTER

I SHOULD BE EXCUSED FROM CHORES DURING FINAL EXAMS

SHWP SHWP

SNEAK

WHOOSH

IS HE ONE OF THOSE STALKERS?

ANYBODY KNOW H.M?

THAT KID'S BEEN COMING TO SPY ON US FOR SEVERAL WEEKS

I'VE SEEN THAT FACE

WHAT IS THE DEAL?

IF YOU DON'T HURRY, THERE WON'T BE ANY FOOD LEFT

OUCH

SLAP

OUCH

DON'T SHIRK YOUR DUTIES!

HE HAD A KANSAI DIALECT... NICE TO HEAR IT AGAIN.

ABBOTT AND COSTELLO.

IT'S LIKE A SLAP-STICK ROUTINE.

SLAP

WHO'S A STALKER?!

ARE YOU A STALKER?

SWAP

WHAM

ARE YOU AN IDIOT? CAN'T YOU TELL BY LOOKING AT ME?

I'M ASKING BECAUSE I *DON'T* KNOW YOU!

SLAP

WHAT ABOUT *YOU*? DON'T YOU KNOW *ME*?

ON THE OTHER HAND, REMEMBER EVERYTHING.

WHAT A THING TO SAY!

I DON'T WANNA!

I WON'T TELL HIM.

THIS IS HOPE-LESS!

I'M SORRY, BUT WILL YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?

I GUESS WE'VE MET, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER YOU.

AH.

MS KATORI IS COMING

DID WE .. FAIL..?

SHE LOOKS KINDA MAD.

YAY, THE EXAMS ARE OVER. ♡

WANNA GO SOME-WHERE?

LET'S DO THAT

HE'S GONE?

BUT BONZE, THIS GUY ...

LONG GONE

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

YANK YANK

READ THIS WAY

LET'S PRACTICE UNTIL WE GET THEM RIGHT

I THOUGHT OF SOME NEW SET PLAYS.

TO DO THAT, WE'LL HAVE TO INCREASE THE VARIATIONS OF OUR ATTACK.

I AGREE I BET THAT'S THE ONLY WAY.

YES!

THE WAY THINGS STAND, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN!

SIMPLY PUT THEY ARE A TEAM THAT FOCUSES ON DEFENSE

AND TO BE HONEST THEY'RE SEVERAL TIMES BETTER THAN IWA TECH.

HMM...

DEFENSE!

IT'S COMING YOUR WAY!

FASTER!

RIGHT! RIGHT

...

...AND ATTACK RELENT-LESSLY!

I THINK THAT'S THE ONLY WAY

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

ATTACK

...AND ATTACK...

ATTACK!

READ THIS WAY

LET'S HUNKER DOWN!

TO BE HONEST, THE COACH SCARED ME, BUT WE'VE GOT ONLY THREE MORE DAYS. THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT PRACTICE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

PENALTY

I DON'T LIKE IT... HE'S A ZEALOT. A TOTAL CORN BALL!

IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO WIN... EVEN IF HE TRIES AS HARD AS HE CAN.

SHŌ IS THE ONLY ONE IN HIGH SPIRITS. WHAT A DORK.

SHŌ IS SO COOL, ISN'T HE? IT'S AWESOME THAT HE WORKS SO HARD.

THANKS

YUKI, LET ME HELP YOU.

MIYUKI.

THUMPA

BUP

AH.

IF YOU CAN'T GET UNDER THAT KIND OF PASS. YOU'LL BE SURROUNDED BY THE DEFENDERS!

TOO SLOW

SHOOM

GIMME ANOTHER ONE!

BOOM

HE ALWAYS STAYS PRETTY CHEERFUL

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO GET BORED WHEN HE HAS TO REPEAT THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER

SHŌ'S TOUGH, ISN'T HE?

PENALTY

HAVE A DRINK AND A WET TOWEL.

ZOINK

HERE YOU GO.

SHŌ IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T NOTICED THAT SHE'S INTO HIM.

SO FREAKIN' OBVIOUS

YOU'RE WELCOME

THANKS

HERE.

FWIP

♡

UH, SURE.

MIYUK!! ME, TOO!

SANTA'S GOT A WILD HAIR UP HIS BUTT TODAY

GYAAAH!

DASH

HE'S PRETTY FAST.

I HATE TRYING SO HARD, BUT IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES FOR MIYUK. TO NOTICE ME, I'LL DO IT.

I WILL NOT LOSE AGAINST SHŌ!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM BECAUSE HIS FACE GOT KINDA SCARY LOOKING!

I GOT IT! NAOKI INOUE! THAT'S HIM! MONKEY BOY!!

THE GUY FROM THIS MORN NG ?!

HMM?

THAT'S WEIRD.

IS THAT RIGHT? HE DIDN'T SEEM ALL THAT GENTLEMANLY ABOUT IT

C'MON!

I WON'T LOSE NEXT TIME!

SAME TIME TOMORROW, OKAY?!

AH!

DON'T WORRY IT'S NOT A GRUDGE OVER A FIGHT

HE'S JUST SOMEONE I PLAYED SOCCER WITH WHEN WE WERE KIDS. IT'S A GENTLEMANLY, SPORTING SORTA RELATION-SHIP

WAAA SON OF A ...

YOU SAY SOMETHING, LITTLE BUDDY? HUH?

THERE

UNCLE!

YANK

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

AHH! THAT'S MINE.

ZONK

THANKS, BABE.

HE SAID YOU MAY BE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL. DO YOU HAVE A FEUD GOING?

ONE OF THE GUYS WE PLAYED FUTSAL AGAINST ASKED ME TO SEND HIS REGARDS TO YOU.

HMM. THE POSIBILITIES ARE LIMITLESS.

BLONDE ?!

I'D SAY HE'S LIGHTER BLONDE THAN YOU.

INOUE? NAOKI INOUE HUH?

HE SAID HIS NAME IS NAOKI INOUE

NOPE. WHY DO YOU ASK?

I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING. SHIGEKI, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE FROM HIBA JUNIOR HIGH?

CRIPES

I'M A YEAR OLDER THAN YOU GUYS. I REPEATED A YEAR.

THAT MEANS ..

I DIDN'T GO.

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL DURING THAT TIME?

FROM AROUND THE TIME SIXTH GRADE WAS ABOUT TO FINISH. BEFORE I KNEW IT, A YEAR PASSED

WHEN WAS THIS?

NO ONE ASKED ME.

NO BIGGY

FIRST TIME I HEARD ABOUT THAT!

"NO" NO WAY!

WHAT WAS?

THAT WAS UNUSUAL

OOPS

JIM, USUALLY I GET PAID TO TELL MY STORY

TELL US MORE ABOUT THE TRIP

WELL, IT *COULD* BE CONSIDERED PRETTY BAD, I GUESS.

DID YOU DO SOMETHING REALLY BAD?

WHAT? DID YOU DO SOMETHING?

YEAH

REALLY WANNA KNOW?

WHAT?

C'MON, SPILL IT.

I SEE ...

THAT WAS THE DAY...

BASICALLY, I *STOOD HIM UP.*

I TOTALLY FORGOT THAT I PROMISED TO MEET HIM, AND WENT ON A JOURNEY INSTEAD

I HITCH-HIKED ALL OVER JAPAN FROM EAST TO WEST LIKE A HOBO.

IT INTERESTED ME AND I SORTA LEFT HOME TO TRY IT

YOU KNOW, LIKE THE ONES THEY SHOW ON TV? I MEAN, THE HITCHHIKERS WHO TRAVEL WITH NO MONEY

A *JOURNEY?*

IS THAT ALL?

BUT?

WHAT BOTHERS ME IS NOT THE MONKEY BOY BUT THAT PRETTY BOY CENTER BACK YOU SPOKE OF

IF I PLAYED HIM TODAY, I DON'T THINK I'D LOSE.

BUT...

AND YET, HE'S PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE. THAT MEANS THIS TSUBASA IS NOT AN ORDINARY SORTA GUY

KNOWING NAOK'S PERSONALITY THERE'S NO WAY HE'D TAKE ORDERS FROM A PRETTY BOY.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO FINDING OUT WHAT KINDA GUY HE IS.

TSUBASA SHINA.

I GOT NOSTALGIC EVEN THOUGH THAT'S NOT LIKE ME AT ALL

OH WELL I REMEMBERED SOME OLD, LONG-FORGOTTEN STUFF THIS MORNING

YOU TALKING ABOUT YOUR PAST

IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO LEAVE OUT THE CRITICAL DETAILS

AT THE TIME, I WAS, YOU KNOW, A LEVEL ABOVE HIM, BUT I WONDER WHERE WE STAND NOW.

WELL, HE WAS PRETTY GOOD. GOOD ENOUGH TO ACT LIKE HE WAS A BIG SHOT.

I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT, TOO.

SO, HONESTLY, WHAT KIND OF SKILLS DOES THAT CHILD-HOOD FRIEND OF YOURS HAVE?

LEMME SEE

CREAK

STAGE.85 A Wing Descends

WHISTLE! THEATRE !!

MANGA BY **SEKI** ASSISTANT S

YUP.

WE...

SO LONG AS WE LEAVE IT TO TSUBASA...

WORK OUT SOME-HOW

TAMOCCHAN IS THE JUDO TEAM'S BEST HOPE AFTER ALL

OF COURSE JUDO HAS A TOURNAMENT ON SUNDAY TOO

Hida Junior High

HOW-ZIT?

YO.

WHAT'S UP

EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST THE PRIMARY, WE'RE MAKING IT TO THE FINALS

THAT WAS BEYOND OUR IMAGINATION A YEAR AGO

IT'S THE FINAL GAME...

WELL OF THE PRIMARY

HE WENT ALONG WITH THE COACH TO NEGOTIATE BORROWING TAMOCCHAN.

WHERE'S TSUBASA?

HEY EVERYONE BE QUIET!

2 — 1

IF TSUBASA HADN'T COME WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD'VE BECOME OF US.

DO YOU GUYS PLAY SOCCER?

HMMM.

SNEER

SNEER

I'M SURE WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT IS BULLYING PEOPLE WITHOUT USING EVEN A TEENY BIT OF YOUR BRAIN. YOU THINK YOU CAN INTIMIDATE ME, RIGHT?

IF YOU WANT, I'M WILLING TO BET THAT YOU CAN'T BEAT ME EVEN IF YOU TEAM UP.

BECAUSE I'M A GENIUS, YOU KNOW.

HE TRANSFERRED FROM ASASHIRO JUNIOR HIGH. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

THIS IS A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT, TSUBASA SHIINA

NICE TO MEET YOU.

HEE HEE HEE

SMART *AND* A HOTTIE.

I'M GONNA START HIS FAN CLUB ♡

IS HE REALLY A BOY?

ASASHIRO IS THAT SCHOOL FOR BRAINIACS

WOO HOO! ♡

HE'S CUTE. ♡

NAOKI! GOSUKE! BE QUIET!

YEAH, YEAH. INSTEAD OF INTRODUCING YOURSELF, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US A LITTLE DANCE?

DID YOU COME TO THE WRONG ADDRESS? WHERE YOU LOOKING FOR THE TV STUDIO?

READ THIS WAY

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

I'M DIFFERENT FROM THEM, HUH?

NOW, BE QUIET! WE'LL START THE LESSON.

UH, THERE ISN'T ONE

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR THE SOCCER TEAM AT THIS SCHOOL?

Y..YES? WHAT S IT?

EXCUSE ME CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

YO ...

HUMPH

I GUESS THEY USED TO HAVE ONE.

THERE ISN'T?

I HEAR NAOK AND GOSUKE ARE TRYING TO START A SOCCER TEAM, BUT THEY'RE ON THE TEACHERS Y'KNOW. LIST.

HEY, STOP IT!

JOLT

WHAT DID YOU SAY, NANCY?!

YOU LITTLE PUNK!

CLATTER

...

PFFT.

IF YOU WANT I DON'T MIND PROVING WHAT I SAID HOW ABOUT IT?

THEY SAY WEAK ONES BARK THE LOUDEST

LISTEN, TSUBASA. DON'T GET NVOLVED WITH THOSE MORONS

YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THEM.

HEY! WHERE'RE YOU GOING? THE LESSON IS ABOUT TO START

SORRY CAN'T BE BOTHERED!

IT'S TOO LAME!

WHY'D YOU DO THAT, BRO?

THIS WHOLE THING IS YOUR FAULT.

IF YOU HADN'T CAUSED TROUBLE IN THE CLUB, WE WOULDN'T BE IN THE DOG HOUSE!

WHY DID THEY HAVE TO FORCE *ME* TO QUIT THE CLUB, TOO?!

BUT THAT COACH SUCKS!

JUST DON'T BE *HITTING* ME!

YUP.

LET'S GO HOME

I'M KINDA THE SAME WAY

I MEAN, I DON'T GET EXCITED ABOUT PLAYING ANYMORE.

DOESN'T APPEAL TO ME.

I MEAN, I DON'T LIKE NANCY-BOY ELITIST SOCCER

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

ARE *YOU* GONNA JOIN A CLUB?

I TOLD YOU TO BACK OFF

HMMM.

GOSLIKE, WHAT'S UP WITH THE TEAM?

I *TOLD* YOU NOT TO GET TOO FAMILIAR WITH ME, *JUNIOR.*

LOOK WHO'S *TALKING,* MASAK.

YOU SKIPPING CLASSES AGAIN?

THEY WATCH EVERYTHING WE DO. IT'S STUPID

EVEN THOUGH THE OTHER GUYS STARTED THAT FIGHT, IT WAS, YOU KNOW, BAD THAT THE COPS GOT INVOLVED.

NOT HAVING ENOUGH MEMBERS IS JUST AN EXCUSE. BASICALLY, THEY JUST DON'T LIKE US.

THEY SAID A SOCCER TEAM ISN'T ALLOWED. NEITHER IS A SOCCER CLUB.

WHA-IM

OUCH.

I WANNA PLAY SOCCER!

BUP

FWISH

YOU KNOW, ONCE I LOST SOMEONE TO COMPETE AGAINST...

...I LOST MY DRIVE TO PLAY SOCCER.

BUT IT'S THE ONLY THING I'M GOOD AT.

WAA

HUH?

YOU SOUND LIKE SOMEBODY I USED TO KNOW

IS THAT THE PROBLEM?

TO ME AS LONG AS I CAN PLAY HARDCORE SOCCER, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS

SQUEEL

TSUBASA.

YOU'RE SUPER COOL!

SO CUTE

THEY'RE PLAYING SOCCER N P E. CLASS.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

VOOM

TOSS

TRY...

... PASSING ME.

GRIN

NAOKI

BIP

!

TUP

IT'S JUST A P.E CLASS, AFTER ALL.

BO-RING.

THAT LITTLE CREEP

HE WASN'T JUST BLOWING SMOKE

GRIP

WANNA TRY ME?

SPIN

LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN PLAY A LITTLE.

HEY, STOP THAT DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH HIM, TSUBASA!

SURE!

WHOOSH

WHAT?

BECAUSE OF MY LOOKS, I'M OFTEN PICKED ON.

SORRY, DID I MENTION, I'M TRAINED IN THE MARTIAL ARTS

FWUMP

BOOSH

SHOOM

GRAB

YOU ...

...SON OF A ...

I WON, DIDN'T I?

BUMP

AH.

UH-OH, IT HIT THE...

DOOM

WHO KICKED THE BALL

AT MY CAR?

LITTLE SCUM!

ER THEIR HANGOUT IS SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE

LOOKS LIKE I OWN YOU, PUNK. DO AS I SAY.

GLEAM

YOU WERE DEFEATED AT SOMETHING YOU'RE GOOD AT AND OUT OF FRUSTRATION

YOU TURNED TO VIOLENCE, BUT YOU WERE HUMILIATED INSTEAD

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO. YOU'RE TOTALLY DEFEATED.

丸山公園

FREAK!

DARN HIM!

TU MP

IT'S GOTTA BE A JOKE

HOW COULD *HE* DO WHAT WE *COULDN'T* ?!

HE'S TELLING US TO JOIN THE SOCCER TEAM THAT *HE'S* STARTING.

YOU KNOW, HE'S A TEACHER'S PET

BUT HE MIGHT END UP PULLING IT OFF.

FWAK

GUH...

!

BRO!

THWOCK

YOU FRIGGIN BRAT! I'LL KILL.

BRO! YOU OKAY, BRO?!

GRAB

IDIOT! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

YOU WANNA KICK YOUR LITTLE BALL AT IT AGAIN?!

..THAT MY CAR IS YOUR TOY

YOU SAYING I'M A NOTH NG .?

!

ZWIT CH

..WHAT I'M GONNA DO!!

S... STOP IT!

LET ME SHOW YOU

HUH?

KRA CK

FZZZZT

ALL RIGHT! OUR GOAL IS THE TOKYO CHAMPION-SHIP THEN.

TOKYO CHAMPION-SHIP?

GOT THE OKAY.

WHAT'S UP WITH YAMOC-CHAN?

WHY ARE YOU GUYS GOOFING OFF?

OUR GOAL IS ...

...WORLD DOMINATION.

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE WERE CARRIED ALOFT BY TSUBASA, THE FLUTTERING WING

HA

YOU'RE THE BEST!

HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF

THEY'RE GONE?!

YOU.

POOF

BUT..!

THAT'S NOT THE SORT OF THING YOU DO TO A YAKUZA, YOU KNOW?

YOU'RE GOOD IN SCHOOL, BUT YOU'RE AN UNBELIEVABLE IDIOT!

PROBABLY

IS THAT FAR ENOUGH?

WA HA HA HA HA HA HA HOO HOO HOO HEH HEH HEH HEH

HOW COULD I JUST STAND THERE WHEN HE CALLED SOCCER KICKING AROUND A "LITTLE BALL"!

MMFF

STAGE.86 A Remarkable Game

A dream at the end of the century?
YEAR 1998
PETER CAGE 82
AT HIS FARM...
WHEAT
YEAR 1999
PETER CAGE 83
FOUND A CROP CIRCLE
YEAR 2000
PETER CAGE 84
HE DEFEATS THE ALIENS FROM THE PLANET KANAC-CHO
HOW IDIOTIC THE DREAM OF 2000 IS THE SYDNEY OLYMPICS!
ANYWAY THAT'S THE DREAM I HAD

4-PANEL MANGA INCLUDED IN E-JUMP

PRODUCED WITH ASSISTANCE BY AIKO MESO.

THAT'S RIGHT!

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO GIVE UP MIYUK

...AS A MAN ..

...I WILL NOT LOSE OUT TO YOU!

RUMBLE

SIZZLE

HISSS

WHAT'S WRONG, SANTA?

SINCE THAT'S THE SITUATION, YOU'D BETTER BE READY TO PLAY!

A . ANY-HOW .

UM, SANTA

BLUSH

IT'S A WOMAN, HUH?

AHA

HOW CAN I BE "IN IT" TOGETHER WITH YOU?!

I JUST DECLARED THAT I AM YOUR RIVAL!

WIPE THAT SMILE OFF YOUR FACE.

MY LITTLE BROTHER IS SO DENSE

POOR KID.

SANTA!

WHAT'S UP? AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO MEET UP ON THE PITCH?

YEAH. YOU'VE BEEN WORKING PRETTY HARD THESE PAST FEW DAYS

SINCE WE'LL STAND ON THE SAME FIELD..

?

I'M A SUB-STITUTE PLAYER TODAY!

SHŌ!

LET'S GO TOGETHER

I HAVEN'T GOTTEN READY YET COME ON IN.

LITTER

YUP.
DON'T YOU FEEL NERVOUS TOO?
THE FINALS ARE ABOUT TO BEG N

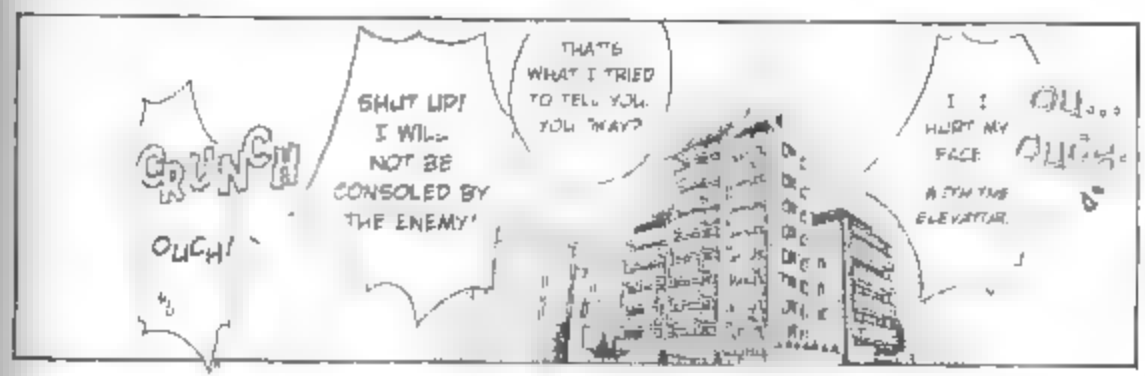
IT'S COOL THAT SO MANY GIRLS ARE INTERESTED IN SOCCER
THEY'RE WITH HIBA JUNIOR HIGH I GUESS
WOW THERE ARE A LOT OF GIRLS
WHY DO I HAVE TO CARRY EVERYTHING?

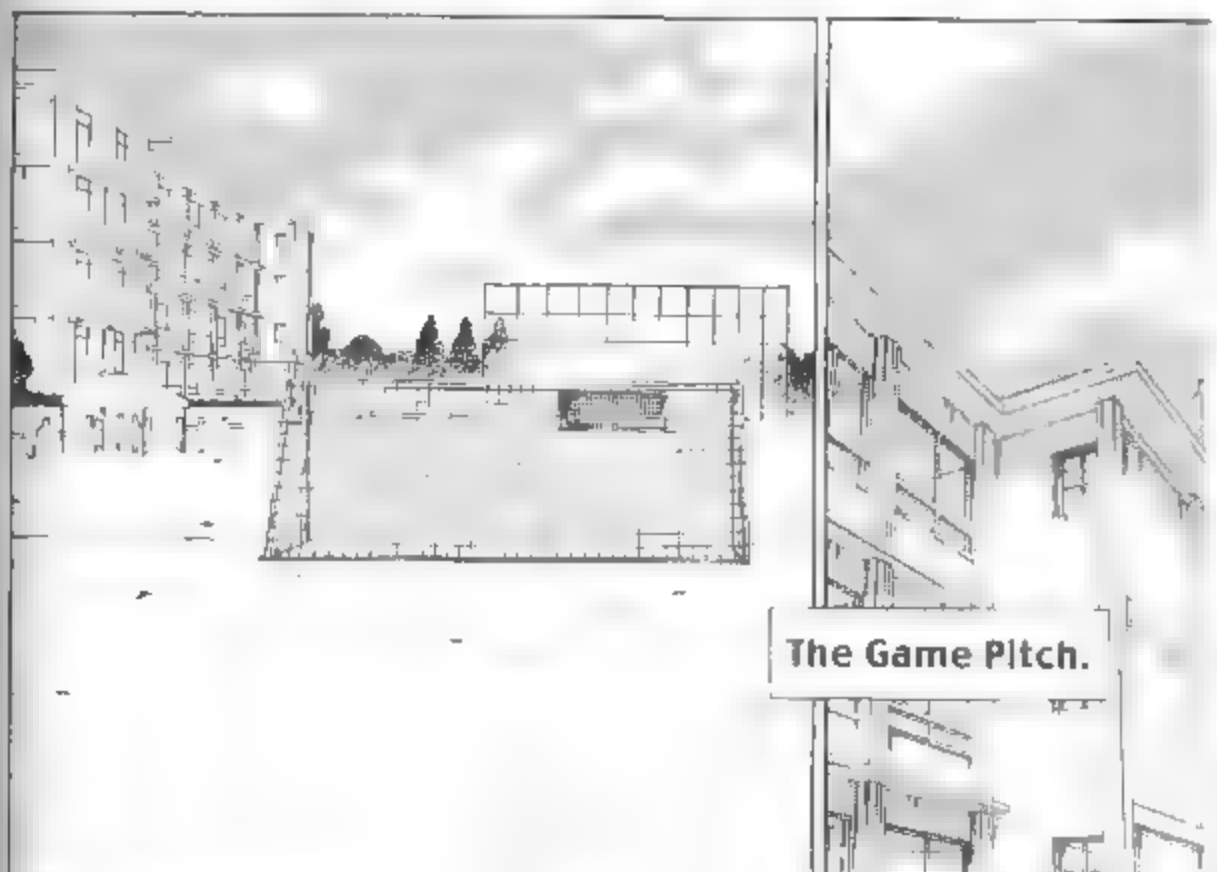
SO NOISY.

SQUEEL
HE S HERE

WHAT?
NO WHAT THEY RE NTERESTED N IS THAT.

CRU NCH
WATCH OUT ..


CRUNCH
OUCH!
SHUT UP! I WILL NOT BE CONSOLED BY THE ENEMY!
THAT'S WHAT I TRIED TO TELL YOU, YOU WAY?
I HURT MY FACE
OU...
OUCH!
AT THE ELEVATOR.


The Game Pitch.

TSUBASA!
♡

YOU'LL SEE.

HAVE YOU MANAGED TO COME UP WITH A REAL STRATEGY AT LEAST?

I HAD FUN THE OTHER DAY

DO I *KNOW* YOU, STRANGER?

UM...

PREPARE YOURSELF

I'M NOT THE SAME PERSON I WAS BACK THEN.

LOOK AGAIN.

BUT NOT *HOT* LIKE I AM.

PRETTY

SHE'S CUTE.

A GIRL?!

THAT'S TSUBASA SHIINA ♀, THE CAPTAIN OF HIBA JUNIOR HIGH.

KATSURŌ?

SEIJI!

COACH, GOOD MORNING

ER, YOU HERE TO WATCH TATSUYA ?

OKAY, COACH.

I'LL GO ON AHEAD

KATSURŌ

WE'RE HERE TO WATCH HIBA JUNIOR HIGH. THEY WERE UNSEEDED.

YUP.

HE'S HAVING FUN

DON'T PLAY DUMB!

LEMME SEE, WHICH NAOKI WAS THAT AGAIN?

DON'T PRETEND NOT TO REMEMBER. IT'S *ME!* YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND, NAOKI INOUE!

HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU LITTLE... ! NOW YOU'RE DOING IT ON *PURPOSE*, AREN'T YOU?! ON *PURPOSE!*

WHERE'S THE LITTLE GUY?

!

SHŌ.

I'M LATE I'M LATE.

SEE YOU LATER.

SORRY, SHŌ

...THE QUESTION IS: HOW WILL JOSUI CHANGE THEIR GAME?

THAT'S WHY HE TOOK THE TROUBLE TO COME, BUT...

LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE A FUN MATCH.

COACH KIRIHARA, KATSURŌ AND SE JI HAVE COME TO WATCH

WHAT?!

SUIT UP QUICKLY. WE'RE STARTING THE WARM-UP.

SORRY I'M LATE!

SO WE'VE LEARNED SOME NEW PATTERNS FROM OUR COACH.

HIBA JUNIOR HIGH PUTS UP SOME SERIOUS D

WELL, WE RE, FINE.

YOU GUYS READY?

I SEE.

SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'VE GOT

NOW WE JUST NEED TO HIT THEM WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT.

COACH THINKS HIBA JUNIOR HIGH HAS THE EDGE...

GOOD LUCK.

AH...

...SORRY. PLEASE EXCUSE US.

YOU'RE RIGHT

BOW

SAVE THE B G TALK FOR *AFTER* YOU WIN . .

THAT'S SO LAME

HE'S A CRANKY ONE.

BUT

WHAT'RE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR? YOU IDIOT!

YEAH!

IF THEY REALLY REGARD US AS THE R RIVAL

...WE CAN'T LOSE THIS GAME!

THAT'S RIGHT, WE CAN'T LOSE THIS GAME.

I BET THEY CAME TO WATCH HIBA. THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT THEM.

JOSU ? THEIR RIVAL? NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

YOU'VE GOT A NERVE TO ASSUME YOU'LL WIN AGAINST US.

WHAT A SURPRISE!

SO WE CAN PLAY AGAINST MUSASHI-NOMORI.

GLANCE

I'VE CRUSHED HIS SPIRIT HE CAN'T EVEN TALK

YOU'RE A BIG TALKER, PAL JUST *WHO* DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

STOP IT THE GAME'S ABOUT TO START

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

WHAT?!

THE WORLD ...IT'S TRUE.

THAT'S AWE-SOME.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE ARE PLENTY OF TEAMS THAT ARE JUST AS GOOD.

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ONLY THE TOKYO CHAMPIONS, RIGHT?

DEFEATING MUSASHINOMORI IS YOUR GOAL? WHAT A PUNY GOAL.

U-14 (UNDER 14), U-15 (UNDER 15), AND U-16 (UNDER 16).*

IF YOU'RE SETTING A GOAL, WHY NOT AIM FOR THE WORLD!

*THE NATIONAL TEAMS ARE COMPOSED OF PLAYERS THAT ARE UNDER AGE 14, 15 AND 16.

HEH

IT'S TOO FUNNY TO TICK ME OFF.

YOU THINK A TEAM LIKE OURS WILL BE BEATEN BY A BUNCH OF SAD SACKS WHO JUST WANT TO DEFEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI?

WE'RE AIMING FOR THE WORLD. SOCCER ISN'T JUST SOME AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY FOR US.

COACH.

SORRY I'M LATE.

BOTH TEAMS, PLEASE ASSEMBLE

THAT IS SO SWEET

A BIKER CHICK?!

THAT'S THEIR COACH?

...

..DO YOU THINK YOU EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO GET THERE?

WITHIN REACH, BUT

YUP!

ER...

WHEN YOU THINK THAT WAY, THE WORLD IS WITHIN REACH!

OF COURSE! IT SURE IS!

...

...I MEAN, I WISH I COULD...

BLUSH

IS WHAT I MEAN

TSUBASA!

PFFT.

AH HA HA HA HA

YOU'RE FUNNY!

TWEE

FOOMP

TWEEEE

KICK OFF!

STAGE.87 The Greeting

WHISTLE!

TU

MP

ROKU-SUKE!

HIBA

SPIN

!

IT'S STARTED!

THEY'RE COMING

HIBA

TEN-MINUTE DRILL! STAY FROSTY

NO WAY...

THAT FORMATION

BA
D
A

FUMP

WHA
...?

BOO

HIBA

HIBA

HE'S ATTACKING !!

WHOA.

WITHOUT ANY WARNING!!

HIBA

OH

SHOOO

COOL CUSTOMER, HUH?

OSHU

WOO HOO.

IT'S WILD FROM THE GET-GO. THE TENSION IS RUNNING HIGH.

LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF FUN

♡

I WANNA GET IN THERE

TINKLE TINKLE

IDIOT

HEY, HEY!

IT REALLY IS.

INCREDIBLE

TSU-BASA!

A GREETING, HUH?

NO 10 S CLOSING IN ON THE SHOT!

WOOSH

HIBA

GOOD ONE!

SWAP

HOW NICE. I'D LIKE TO SEE THEM DO WELL.

HMM, JOSUI HAS A LOT OF FEMALE MANAGERS.

YOU KNOW. THEY'RE *YOUNG*.

HEH HEH HEH

OH WELL

I DID TELL THEM TO PUT THE HURT ON HIBA.

COACH MATSUSHITA, IS THIS OKAY? TO GO FULL TILT FROM THE BEGINNING LIKE THIS?

NOW...

BUT THE *MATCH* IS SOMETHING ELSE.

.. THAT FEMALE COACH OF HIBA JUNIOR HIGH.

BUT WHAT BOTHERS ME IS,

FOOM

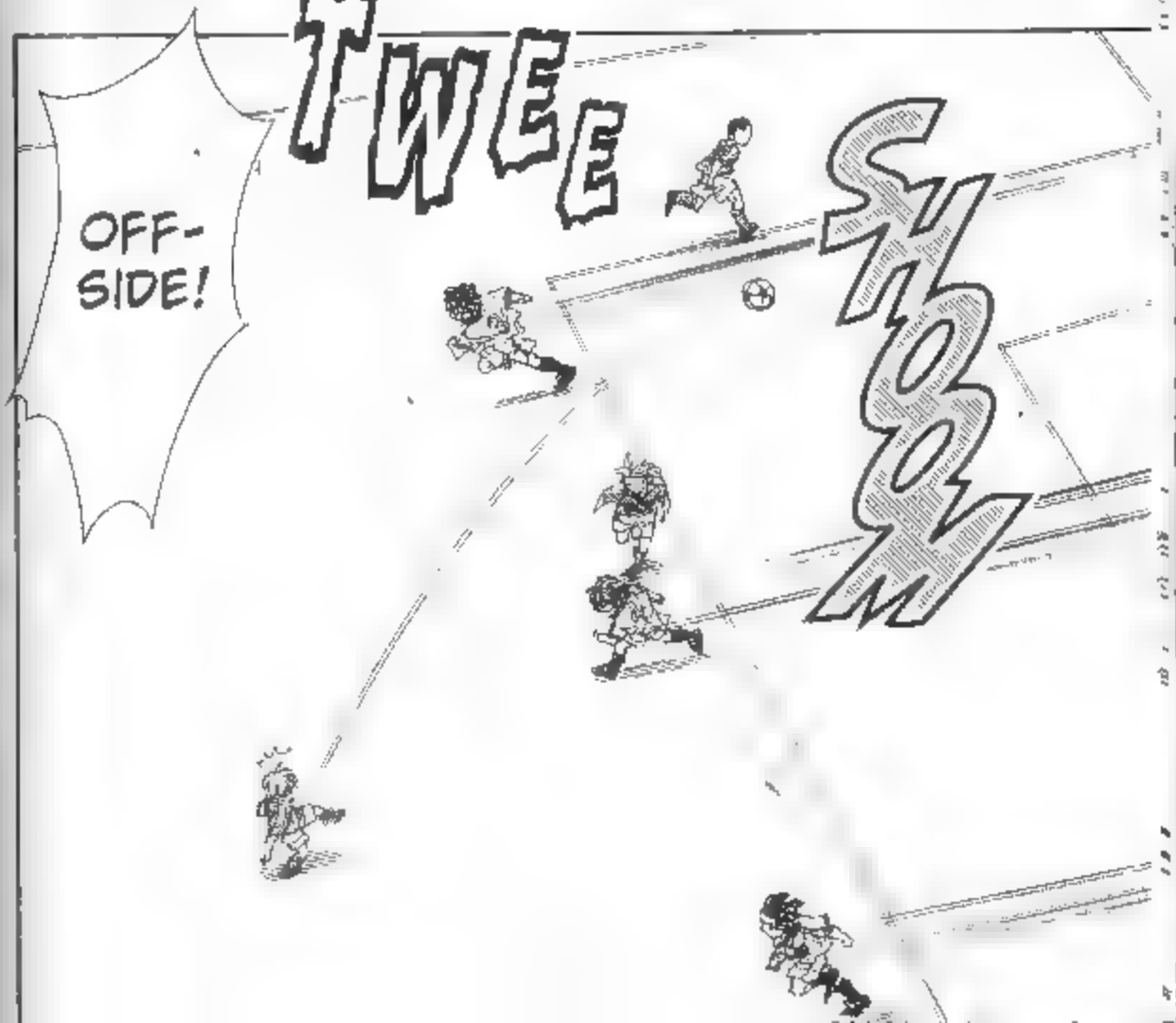
WHAT KIND OF ... OFFENSE WILL THEY SHOW US NEXT?

SMILE

SINCE TSUBASA RESPECTS HER AS THEIR COACH, I SUPPOSE SHE'S NOT JUST AN ORDINARY COACH.

I WONDER WHO SHE IS

I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO USE IT
THE FLAT THREE--PRETTY SOPHISTICATED FOR A JUNIOR HIGH TEAM.
LIKE I THOUGHT
YES
THAT'S THE "FLAT THREE," ISN'T IT?
WHO IS SHE?
AND THAT FEMALE COACH.



Flat Three

THREE DEFENDERS LINE UP STRAIGHT ACROSS THE WIDTH OF THE PITCH, AND EACH DEFENDS A ZONE INSTEAD OF GOING MAN-TO-MAN. THEY MUST CONSTANTLY KEEP THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEIR OFFENSE'S FRONT LINE AND THE DEFENSE'S LAST LINE CLOSE TOGETHER: ABOUT 30 METERS OR SO. IF THEY MANAGE TO KEEP THE LINES TIGHT, THE DEFENSE AT MIDFIELD CAN BECOME STRONGER. SO WHEN THEY STEAL THE BALL, THEY CAN QUICKLY REVERSE GEARS AND ATTACK.

THUS, WHEN DEFENDERS DRAW BACK, THE STRIKERS MUST DRAW BACK, TOO. CONVERSELY, IF THE STRIKERS ATTACK, THE DEFENDERS MUST PUSH THE LINE UP ACCORDINGLY SO THAT NO MATTER WHERE THE BALL IS, THEY KEEP THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE LINES AT 30 METERS. OTHERWISE, THE SYSTEM IS USELESS.

IF THE FLAT THREE IS USED CORRECTLY, THE DEFENSE CAN TRAP THE OPPONENT'S STRIKERS, AND EASILY GET OFFSIDE CALLS. OF COURSE, THE SYSTEM HAS WEAKNESSES, TOO. JUST THREE DEFENDERS MUST COVER THE WIDTH OF THE PITCH, AND THEY MUST ALWAYS BE READY TO RUSH BACK TO DEFEND THE GOAL.

THEREFORE, THE SYSTEM REQUIRES EXCEPTIONALLY TALENTED DEFENDERS. THEY ALL MUST HAVE GREAT SKILL, STAMINA, SPEED AND A KEEN EYE FOR THE FLOW OF THE GAME.

CURRENTLY AMONG THE BEST EUROPEAN CLUBS, MOST TEAMS THAT USE THREE DEFENDERS EMPLOY THE FLAT THREE SYSTEM. MOST SWITCH BETWEEN THE FLAT THREE AND ANOTHER SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS FOR A "SWEEPER" OR "LIBERO" A DEFENDER FREE TO COVER THE ENTIRE PITCH.

IN JAPAN, AFTER TROUSSIER TOOK THE COACHING POST, THE OLYMPIC SOCCER TEAM SWITCHED TO THE FLAT THREE SYSTEM AND QUALIFIED FOR THE SYDNEY OLYMPICS.

SHOOP

EVEN THOUGH WE *EXPECTED* THE FLAT THREE, ACTUALLY DEALING WITH IT IS ANOTHER MATTER.

ARRGH

Josui Junior High

Hiba Junior High

EVEN WHEN THEY'RE DEFENDING IN THE SAME ZONE, HIBA'S DEFENDERS KEEP A D SCIPLINED LINE. AND UNLIKE JOSUI, THEY DON'T USE A SWEEPER FOR BACKUP.

THE FLAT THREE DEMANDS THREE EXCEPTIONAL DEFENDERS WITH THE CONFIDENCE AND PRACTICAL SKILLS TO WIN IN ONE-ON-ONE SITUATIONS.

BOLD MOVE. ONE LAPSE IN JUDGEMENT AND AN OPPOSING OFFENSE COULD EASILY BURN THEM.

THIS STRATEGY WORKS ONLY WITH STRONG, DECISIVE LEADER-SHIP.

IN PARTICULAR, THE CENTER BACK NEEDS TO BE SHARP AND STRONG-WILLED. HE HAS TO DIRECT THE LINE.

HIBA

HE'S TRYING TO PENETRATE WITH THE DRIBBLE

HE'S GONNA MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THAT ANYWAY

SPIN

SHOOM

AND THEN CENTER THE BALL AT THE POST!

NO, THAT'S NOT IT!

I WANT TO BREAK THROUGH THAT WALL!

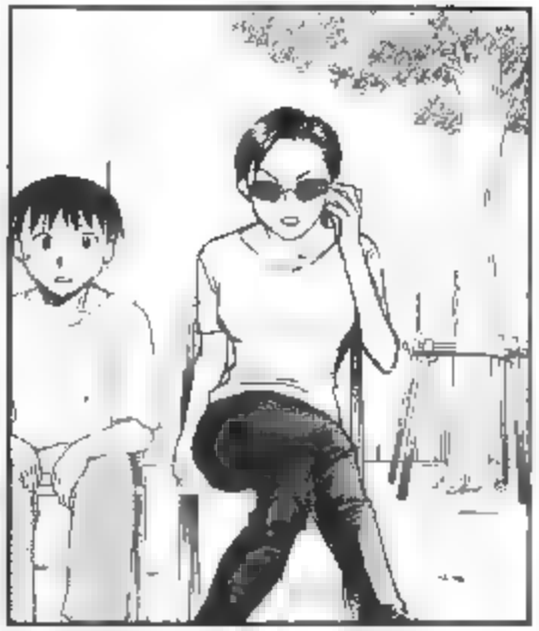
IT'S AN AWESOME STRATEGY.

TUMP

SHŌ!

DASH

HOW .. INTER-ESTING ...
VWIP
...THAT KID...



THAT WOMAN IS...

I JUST REMEM-BERED!

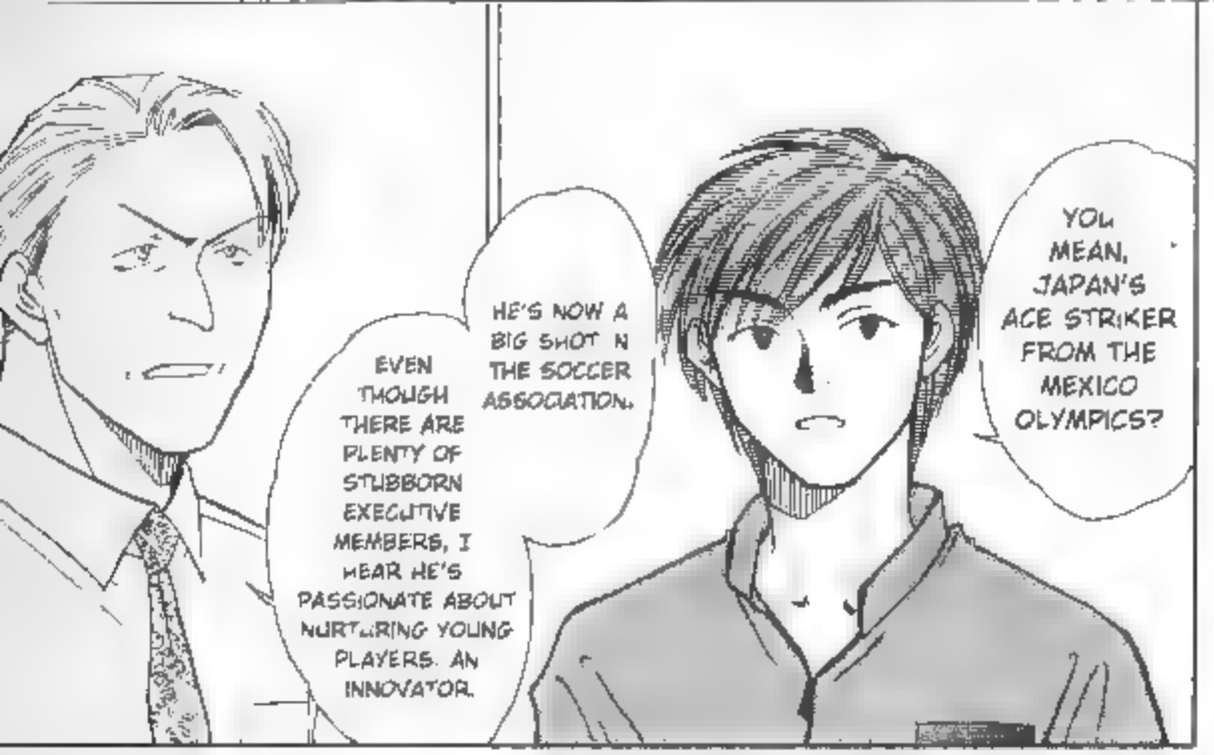
SWAAP!

STAGE.88 Josui On the Offensive

I JUST REMEMBERED!

THAT WOMAN IS...

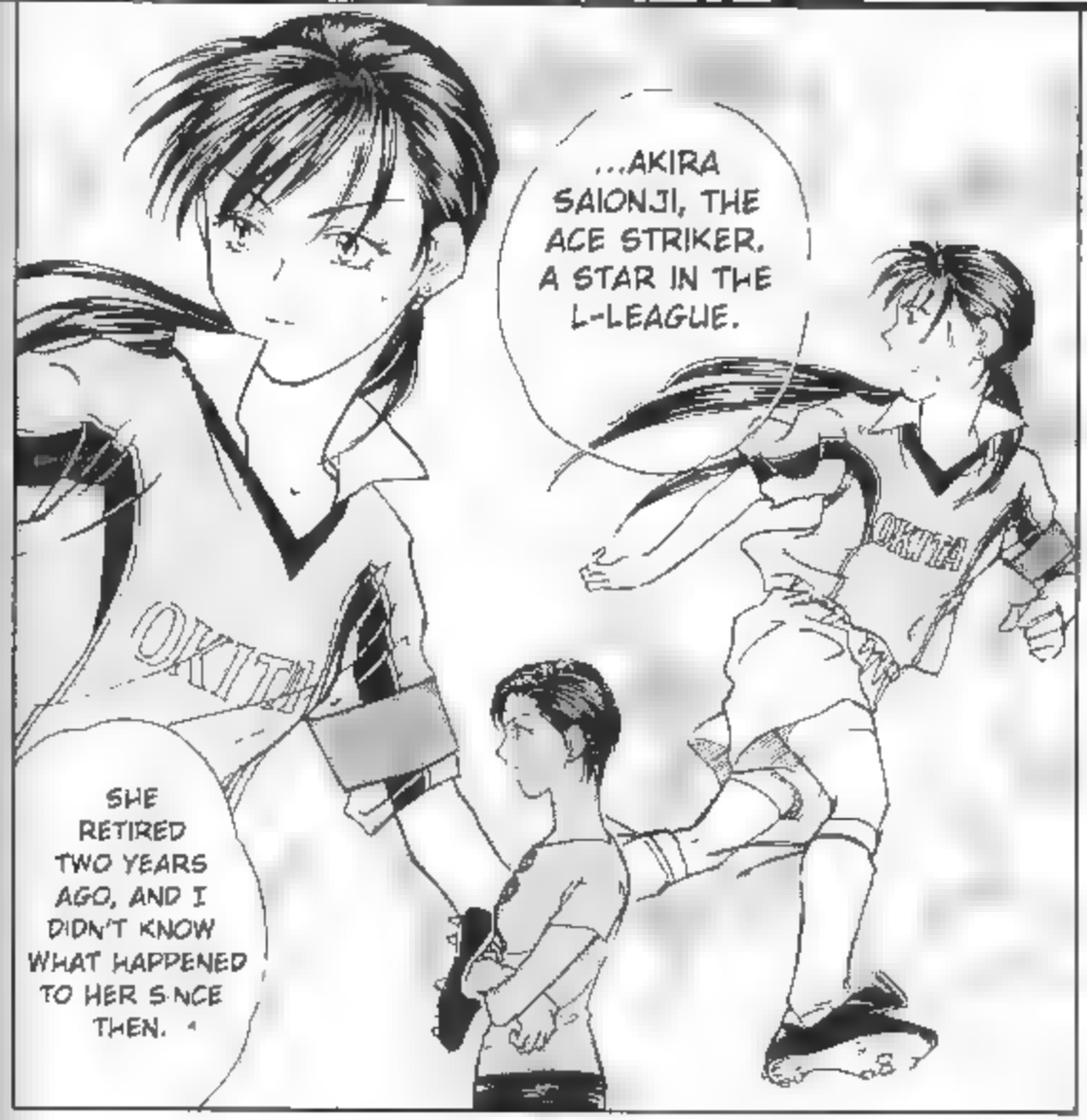
WHISTLE!


YOU MEAN, JAPAN'S ACE STRIKER FROM THE MEXICO OLYMPICS?
HE'S NOW A BIG SHOT IN THE SOCCER ASSOCIATION.
EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY OF STUBBORN EXECUTIVE MEMBERS, I HEAR HE'S PASSIONATE ABOUT NURTURING YOUNG PLAYERS. AN INNOVATOR.

THAT MUST BE WHY HE SENT HIS DAUGHTER TO EUROPE TO LEARN COACHING.
IT'S NORMAL OVER THERE TO TRAIN AS A COACH, BUT IN JAPAN, THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE WHO CAN COACH PROPERLY
THE REALITY IS, IT'S THE OLD GUARD WITH PLAYING EXPERIENCE WHO ARE DIRECTING THE TEAMS

AND ONE MORE THING.
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT MAKES ME UNEASY ABOUT HER

CAPTAIN. LESS TALKING, MORE WATCHING.
SO THAT'S WHY THE "FLAT THREE." HUH? IT'S THE HOT TREND IN EUROPE, AFTER ALL.


...AKIRA SAIONJI, THE ACE STRIKER. A STAR IN THE L-LEAGUE.
SHE RETIRED TWO YEARS AGO, AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER SINCE THEN.
OKUTA

SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF MASARU SAIONJI! I BELIEVE HER NAME'S AKIRA
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY
MASARU SAIONJI?
I TOTALLY IDOLIZED HER.
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT I'D MEET HER AT A PLACE LIKE THIS.

GOOD! WE PENE-TRATED!

YOOSH

ALL RIGHT

I GOT...

!!

SHOOOOT

THAT RUMOR RINGS TRUE NOW

I HEARD SHE'S ENTRUSTED WITH CHOOSING A NEW SELECT TEAM.

DA

SH

10

FOOMP

HEH, THAT GUY HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL

HIB

IT'S YOU, SHIGEK!!

SIZZLE

DASH

BOOMP

VWIP

MASATO!

FOOM

ARR...

HIBA

THE 4TH

HBA JUNIOR HIGH CLEARED!

BUP

IT'S JOSUI'S THROW-IN.

THIS GUY ISN'T THE ONE I SHOULD BE DEALING WITH.

BA

DANG IT!

KA-G

THOOM

GOSUKE! COVER

ROKU-SUKE, TAKE NO.9.

VOO

10

SH

HIBA

I CAN PRACTICALLY ...

...READ YOUR MIND!

SWAP

WHAT A READ!

AHH.

4

BA

AP

SPIN

!

HE'S MARKED ?!

HE'S NOT THERE! SHŌ..?

HIBA

FOOMP

SHIGEKI!

HIBA

IT'S THE LONG BALL.

FLYING PAST MIDFIELD, THE BALL IS GOING ALL THE WAY TO THE FRONT LINE.

SHOOM

THE WING IS ATTACKING, TOO!

NO. 10! AND NO. 8!

GLARE JOLT

GLARE

DANG.

TWITCH

UH, SHŌ, YOU CAN DO IT!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SHŌ?!

CAN'T YOU HANDLE THE BIG GUY? YOU SUCK!

THAT FLIP FLOPPER.

AH!

JOSUI CUT OFF THE PASS!

HIBA

THOOP

FOOMP

SHOOT

HIBA

VOOSH

THUP

IS THAT RIGHT?

YOU AREN'T GETTING PAST ME.

SHI-GEKI!

WHERE WILL HE SEND THE PASS?

AHH!

HE ISN'T PASSING?!

HE'S TAKING IT IN HIM-SELF!!

HIBA!

HE PASSED THE DEFENDER !!

JOSUI NO. 11 JUGGLED OFF HIS HEEL AND FAKED OUT NO. 6!

STAGE.89

Breaking Through the Flat 3

THAT FRIGGIN' *SHOW-BOAT!*

SHI-GEKI!

SHI-GEKI!!

ARGH.

PRINCESS!

LET'S *DO* THIS!!

...
THEN THE KEEPER!

JUST ONE DEFENDER LEFT.

SCISSORS FEINT!

ZOOM

IT'S NO. 11 AND NO. 4, *MANO A MANO!*

WHOOSH

4

I TOLD YOU!

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TRY

IT'S THE SAME!

DASH

DASH

THE OTHER DEFENDERS ARE RUSHING TO HELP NO 4!

SHI-GEKI!

VOOOOSH

4

!

YOU'RE DREAMING!

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME WITH THAT GARBAGE

HEY, YOU'RE GOOD!

ZOOP

ZUP

TO COME TO THAT CONCLUSION?

ISN'T IT A LITTLE SOON ...

VOOSH

GRIN

AHH!

KICK FEINT!

NO. 11 IS GOING TO SHOOT!

HASN'T HE REALIZED THAT HE CAN'T BREAK THROUGH?

FORGET IT, PAL!

HIBA

AHH!!

WHAM

NO. 4 GOT THE TACKLE!

NO. 11 IS TAKEN OUT?!

WHOOSH

HE PASSED ...

WHAP

UP

THIS IS NOT GOOD

NO WAY

THEY EVEN STOPPED SHIGEKI.

WHEN THEY STOPPED NO. 11, IT DEMORALIZED THE TEAM.

AFTER ALL, THEY SEE HIM AS THEIR LEGENDARY *GO-TO* GUY.

YES.

I CAN SEE THEY'RE SHAKEN UP

IT MIGHT EVEN HAVE THE *OPPOSITE* EFFECT ON HIM.

THERE'S ONE PLAYER WHO'S NOT AFFECTED.

BUT...

FU

UMP

NEITHER ONE HAS GIVEN IN!

WA HA HA HA HA

NOT A GOOD IDEA TO UNDER-ESTIMATE OUR CAPTAIN. I'VE, UH, TASTED DIRT BEFORE WHEN I DID IT

HOW PATHETIC. SHIGEKI TAKEN *DOWN* LIKE A CHUMP! REAL COOL.

THIS IS TURNING INTO AN *INCREDIBLE* GAME.

HIBA

HIBA

SOMEHOW I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS.

HEH ...

THE PASS WILL MAKE IT TO THE FRONT LINE!

INSIDE FEINT!

NICE!

TUMP

STOPPED!

TOM

AND THE LONG BALL IS SENT *DOWN-FIELD!*

FOOOM

BUT IT'S FED RIGHT BACK TO THE OFFENSE BY THE KEEPER

VOOSH

BUT NO. 9 CAN'T CATCH UP!

BUP

BUT DESPITE THAT, THE MIDFIELD GAME SEEMS BROKEN.

THE FLAT THREE IS RUNNING LIKE CLOCK-WORK.

IT'S TRUE. THEY'VE TURNED BACK EVERY-THING WE'VE THROWN AT THEM.

BUT

HIBA'S DEFENSE IS LIKE A BRICK WALL

...JOSLI'S PASSES ARE MAKING IT TO THE FRONT LINE.

EVEN WHEN WE HAVE A NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE AT MID-FIELD.

FOOMP

THAT NO. 10 IS MORE THAN COMPETENT

GLANCE

FU MP

THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GO!

2

IT'S USELESS. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TRY

HIBA

AN EASY PASS WON'T BREAK THROUGH THE MIDFIELD. HIBA HAS TOO MANY BODIES THERE.

NOD NOD

HIS PASSES NEED TO BE EASIER TO RECEIVE

ISN'T TATSUYA BEING A BIT HARD ON SHŌ?

HE'S SENDING IT DOWN HARD BECAUSE HE TRUSTS SHŌ.

HE KNOWS SHŌ WILL GET TO IT .. EVENTUALLY.

BUP

BOOMP

DASH

THUMP

SHŌ!

SHŌ-BOY!

TU

I'LL TAKE IT INSIDE THE PENALTY BOX!

HE BROKE THROUGH !!

HP

WHAT ?!

TWI

HE TAKES THE SHOT!

TOSUI

HIBA

FO

OM

DASH

DANG IT! HE GOT A STEP ON ME!

41

HIBA

HE'S IN THE BOX!

NO, I CAN'T RISK IT!

IT'S A GO!!

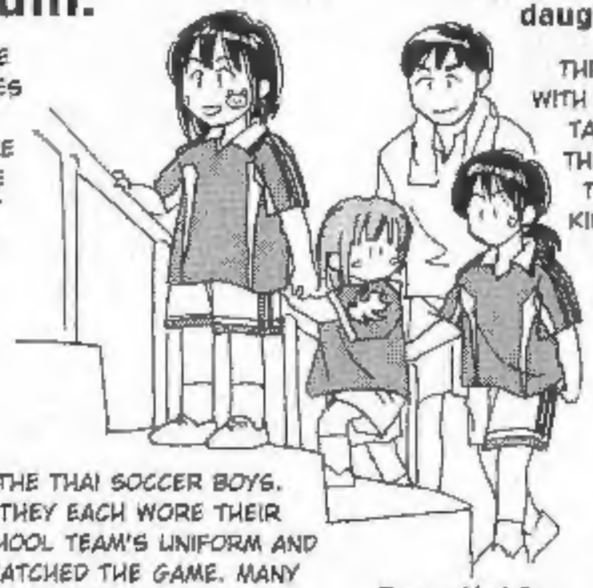
HE'LL GET A PENALTY KICK IF I MISS!

At the stadium.

WHERE I SAT, THERE WERE A LOT OF JAPANESE FAMILIES WHO APPEARED TO BE EXPATRIATES. PEOPLE WORE TRADITIONAL CLOTHES LIKE YUKATA AND SAMUE, SO IT WAS A FUN ATMOSPHERE.

Father and three daughters.

THREE GIRLS WITH CUTE PAPER TATTOOS ON THEIR CHEEKS. THEY WORE KID VERSIONS OF THE JAPANESE UNIFORM.



THE THAI SOCCER BOYS. THEY EACH WORE THEIR SCHOOL TEAM'S UNIFORM AND WATCHED THE GAME. MANY TEAMS WERE REPRESENTED.

Essential for Spectators:

SINGHA BEER AND POPCORN. UNLIKE THE POPCORN IN JAPAN, IT TASTES SWEET, YOU KNOW. I FELT LIKE AS IF I WAS EATING CARAMEL CORN (MAYBE IT WASN'T THAT SWEET).

GRIPE GRIPE

HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO GO BACK AND FORTH?

THE YOUNG MAN WHO'S OUR GUIDE.

WHINE WHINE

HE'S TOTALLY USELESS. HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

IT WAS HARD TO FIND THE RIGHT SEATS, AND A GROUP OF OLD LADIES WAS APPARENTLY WANDERING AROUND FOR A WHILE. THEY WERE TOTALLY UPSET.

Added Bonus

WHEN WE WERE THERE, WE DID HAVE A GUIDE AND A DRIVER, BUT...

ISN'T MR. NAKATA COMING?

Mr. Srang

ALREADY RETURNED TO ITALY.

IT WAS SORT OF EMBARRASSING.

ALTHOUGH IT WAS CALLED A TOUR, THERE WERE ONLY TWO OF US.

WHEN I WALKED AROUND BANGKOK, A SIGN IN JAPANESE ADVERTISING FOOT MASSAGES CAUGHT MY ATTENTION. I TRIED IT IMMEDIATELY.♡ IT FELT GOOD, AND I WISHED IT COULD GO ON FOREVER.

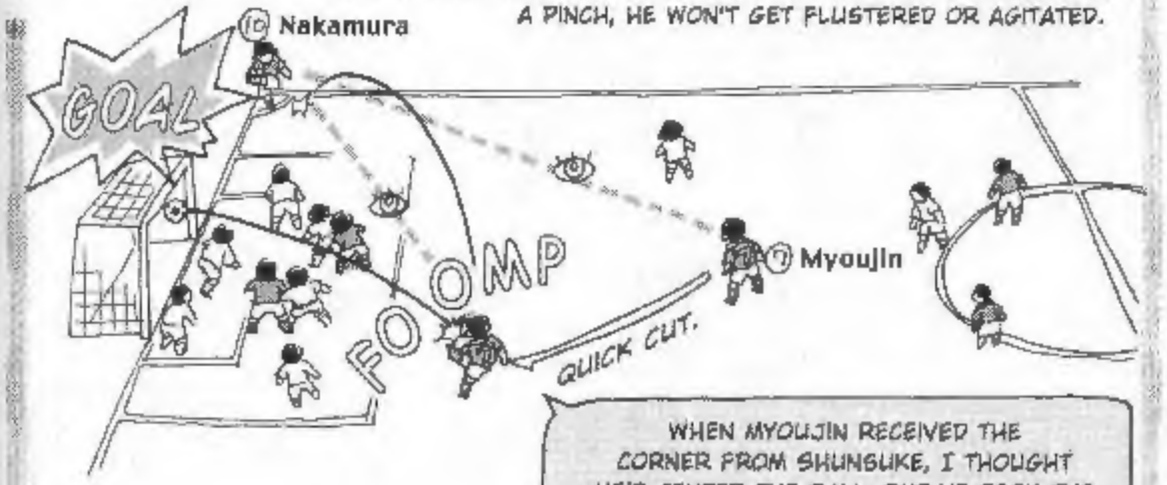
SIGH♡

MYSTERIOUS DISPLAY? FRUITS PLACED ON THE DASHBOARD.

Road to SYDNEY
Notes from Watching
Thailand vs. Japan 11/13/1999
in
Rajamangala Stadium, Bangkok

ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE TEAM HAD ALREADY QUALIFIED FOR THE SYDNEY OLYMPICS, THEY HEADED FOR THAILAND TO TRY TO FURTHER IMPROVE THEIR POSITION IN THE FIELD. IT WAS RAINY THAT DAY EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE DRY SEASON IN THAILAND. THE CONDITION OF THE PITCH WAS TERRIBLE, AND WE ANTICIPATED THAT THE GAME WOULD ALSO BE TERRIBLE...

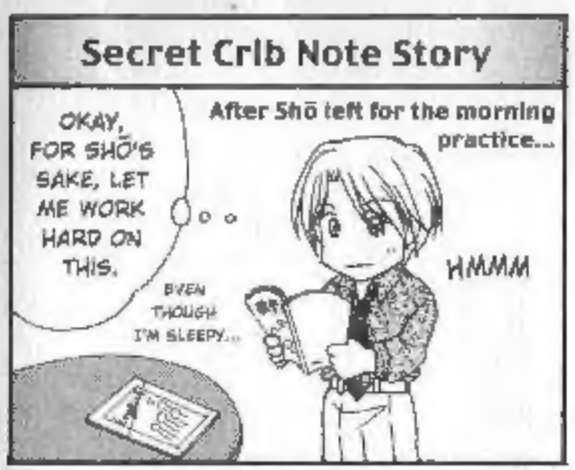
IT WAS HIRAGE WHO ENDED UP TAKING MVP HONORS, BUT PERSONALLY, I WAS FASCINATED BY SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA. ☆ THE IMAGINATION HE DISPLAYED WAS AWESOME! ☆FANTASISTA SHUNSUKE☆ AND, I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE BIG BOSS, THE ROCK-AND-ROLLIN' TSUNEYASU MIYAMOTO. WHAT COMPOSURE HE HAS--AT THE AGE OF 22! WE CAN DEPEND ON HIM WHEN WE NEED IT MOST. EVEN IN A PINCH, HE WON'T GET FLUSTERED OR AGITATED.



WHEN MYOUJIN RECEIVED THE CORNER FROM SHUNSUKE, I THOUGHT HE'D CENTER THE BALL, BUT HE TOOK THE SHOT!! MYOUJIN HAD HIS EYE ON IT. HIS EYE CONTACT WITH SHUNSUKE ENSURED A VICTORY.

THE CAPTAIN STOPS THE BALL IN A COOL MANNER. EVEN FROM AFAR, YOU COULD SEE HIS PREDATOR'S EYES GLEAMING. CAPTAIN, I'M TOTALLY MESMERIZED BY YOU! AND, TOMOKAZU MYOUJIN, THE RIGHT MIDFIELDER--HE IS GOOD WHETHER HE'S ON DEFENSE OR OFFENSE. ESPECIALLY THE FOURTH GOAL WHICH HE SUCCESSFULLY MADE WITH SHUNSUKE'S ASSIST. I PERSONALLY WANT TO GIVE HIM THE MVP FOR THAT ALONE. MAYBE BECAUSE OF THE BAD CONDITION OF THE GROUND, THE THAIS CONTROLLED THE BALL AT MIDFIELD. HOWEVER, I ADMIRE THE DEFENDERS, WHO NEVER LET THEM SCORE A SINGLE GOAL.

Secret Crib Note Story



IT'S SLOWLY COMING BACK TO ME.
SIZZLE
YES, YES, YES, YES, RIGHT HERE! IT SURE IS IMPORTANT!!
SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH
FLIP FLIP FLIP

WHISTLE!

THEATRE

!!

MANGA BY **SEKI**, ASSISTANT S

You may have wondered about this when you read this in serialization...

SOME OF YOU PROBABLY NOTICED THAT HIBA JUNIOR HIGH'S UNIFORM CHANGED HALFWAY THROUGH THE STORY. I CHANGED IT FOR VARIOUS REASONS... WHEN TWO SCHOOLS PLAY A GAME, AND BOTH TEAMS WEAR UNIFORMS WITH SAME COLOR, ONE OF THE TEAMS MUST WEAR A DIFFERENT UNIFORM WITH A DIFFERENT COLOR (OTHERWISE, IT WILL BE TOO CONFUSING TO PLAY). JOSUI'S UNIFORM IS BLUE, WHILE HIBA JUNIOR HIGH'S IS...RED (SEE THE COVER). IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM THEN, RIGHT? WRONG! IN MANGA, WHEN WE DRAW IT IN BLACK AND WHITE, THEY LOOK ALIKE. SO, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS ORIGINALLY NO PROBLEM WITH THE COLOR OF HIBA JUNIOR HIGH'S UNIFORM, WE HAD TO SUDDENLY CHANGE IT TO WHITE. IT'S NOT BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT TO TROUBLE OURSELVES WITH ADDING TONE THE UNIFORM...

◀ **Hiba Junior High 1999 ~ 2000 Season Away Uniform White + White**

WE'RE NOT SURE HOW MANY JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAMS ACTUALLY HAVE TWO DIFFERENT UNIFORMS, BUT APPARENTLY, WHEN THEY HAVE TO USE UNIFORMS WITH A DIFFERENT COLOR, THEY BORROW THEM FROM A HIGHER GRADE IN SCHOOL. PROFESSIONAL CLUB TEAMS IN EUROPE HAVE A "HOME" OR "FIRST" UNIFORM, WHICH THEY USUALLY WEAR FOR HOME GAMES. WHEN THEY PLAY ELSEWHERE, AS LONG AS THE COLOR IS NOT THE SAME AS AN OPPONENT'S, THEY USE THE SAME UNIFORM. IF THE TWO TEAMS USE THE SAME COLOR, THE VISITING TEAM WEARS A DIFFERENT UNIFORM-- A "SECOND" OR "AWAY" UNIFORM. AND, IF THE COMBINATION OF THE "FIRST" AND "FIRST" OR THE "FIRST" AND "SECOND" UNIFORMS DOESN'T WORK, THEN THEY'LL WEAR A..."THIRD" UNIFORM! SO CLUB TEAMS USUALLY HAVE THREE UNIFORMS. ALSO, THEY SOMETIMES MAKE SPECIAL UNIFORMS FOR THE EUROPEAN CHAMPION'S LEAGUE OR "CUP" TOURNAMENTS, LIKE THE ENGLISH PREMIERE LEAGUE'S FA CUP.

Home uniform ▶ Red x White

TEXT COLLABORATION / **ASSISTANT N** THANKS ♡

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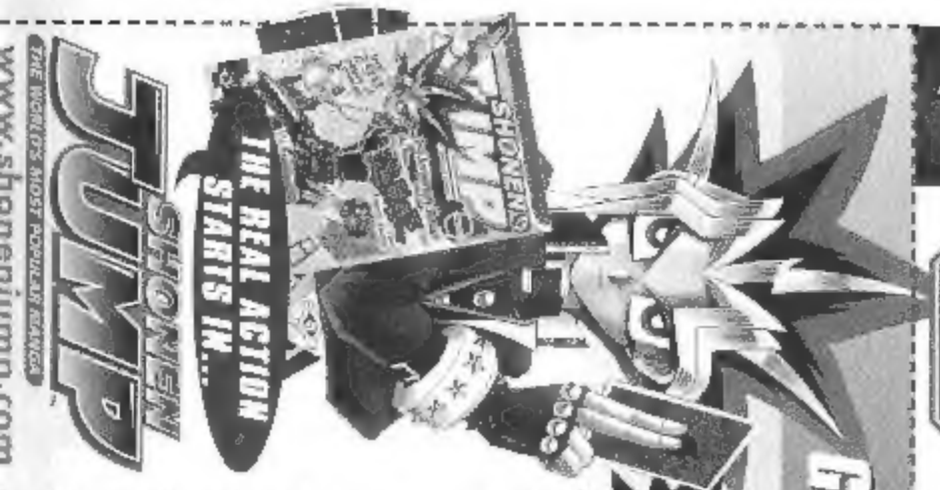

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Next in Whistle!

RUN

It's the district finals and Josui's up against fierce competitor Hiba Middle School. Hiba's perfectly orchestrated teamwork led by ace starter Tsubasa Shina is taking its toll on Josui. Will Shô and team have to resort to desperate tactics to pull off a win? And as the game progresses, a surprising fact about Shô's past comes to light.

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